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the johns hopkins News-Letter

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JHU Confessions taken down following controversial posts

By EMILY HERMAN
Staff Writer

JHU Confessions, a Facebook page featuring anonymous, student-submitted confessions, was deactivated Monday after the page became a hub for cyberbullying and controversial posts about race and sexual orientation.

The page's administrators, all claiming to be Hopkins undergraduates — who have insisted upon remaining unknown — refused to comment after the page was taken down. However, they did respond to several emails from *The News-Letter* between Thursday and Sunday regarding their system and recent controversial posts.

While saying that it was a priority to find and delete offensive posts, they admitted that doing

so had become too difficult recently as the page volume had increased. The administrators wrote that they had received about 150 posts and averaged about 3,000 page visits per day last week.

We know [offensive posts are] one of the shortcomings of the auto-posting system.

— Administrators of JHU Confessions

The number of offensive submissions dramatically increased after the administrators overhauled their posting system. Originally, submissions were sent through Google Docs and individually approved; however, at the start of the spring semester, the page adopted a new system that posted all submissions in 30-minute bursts before the administrators had a chance to review them.

Prior to the page's deactivation, the administrators wrote that they were considering reverting back to their old system in order to reduce the

SEE CONFESSIONS, PAGE A5



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Union features editor, Jocelyn Richard, felt right at home among nerdy Hopkins students while speaking in Shriver Hall on Wednesday evening.

Union editor satirizes news at FAS event

By RACHEL WITKIN
For *The News-Letter*

Over 700 students came to Shriver Hall last night for the second Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) event this year, hosting Jocelyn Richard, a features editor at *The Union*. The

event was co-sponsored by The HOP as a part of their goal to provide more free events for students.

FAS Executive Director sophomore Rosellen Grant introduced Richard by explaining how a writer from *The Union* fit in with FAS's theme of "Confronting

Global Dissonance: The Balance Between Realism and Idealism."

"It criticizes social flaws in a positive way, thereby avoiding the negativity that so often accompanies our reality," Grant said.

Richard started off her presentation by joking about how much she felt at home at Hopkins.

"I'm so excited and happy to be here with so many nerdy, socially awkward and stressed out people tonight before you guys have

to take exams," she said.

She introduced *The Union* as one of the "most powerful and influential news sources in history of journalism," and proceeded to give a fake history of the paper, which she claimed started in 1765 by a Prussian farmer who traded a bag of yams for a printing press.

She went through a few of her favorite recent headlines, continuing with her theme of *The Union* being

SEE FAS, PAGE A6

Apartheid Week sparks controversial discussions

By GEORGINA RUPP
For *The News-Letter*

Last Tuesday, the Hopkins chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) hosted the first event of Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW), an international series of events intended to raise awareness about Israel's policies toward Palestinians, which they view as constituting apartheid. The week seeks to garner support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which aims to use political and economic pressure on Israel to end Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Hopkins SJP, a group that began on campus last spring, works towards creating a space for Palestinian solidarity.

SEE APARTHEID, PAGE A4

Johns Hopkins TEDx sells out in a day

By RITIKA ACHREKAR
For *The News-Letter*

Hopkins hosted its first TEDx event at Hackerman Hall on Saturday. The event featured eight speakers with backgrounds ranging from music to neuroscience. All the speeches had the common theme of "firsts."

"They are pioneering this at Hopkins, but it's really cool that they organized the speakers, the food, the venue and everything. I'm pretty impressed by it," sophomore Ian Colrick, who had previously attended TEDx Baltimore, said.

TED, an acronym for Technology, Entertainment, Design, started out as a conference in California that featured 18-minute speeches by outliers in various fields. TEDx events follow the same format but are independently organized by smaller institutions.

Tickets for the event were in high demand, selling out within 24 hours; however, this was partly due to the fact that TED regulations limited the



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Professor Bruce Marsh gave one of the first TED talks at Hopkins.

number of attendees to 100.

"In order to have a larger event, someone on the team has had to have attended an actual TED event but no one on our team has because those tickets cost thousands of dollars," junior Ardian Latifi, the main student organizer of TEDx, said.

"We're thinking of finding someone who has [attended a TED event], but we're not sure if we want to go that big because what we had yesterday was a small event and with a

great atmosphere and we don't know if we want to lose that," Latifi said.

The event was made accessible to a larger audience via Livestream. Over 1,000 viewers from 12 different countries watched it online.

"I thought the 100 people made the event seem exclusive, which has a certain appeal to it," freshman Liam Haviv said. "That being said, I'm really excited to see the program grow, because I know there are

SEE TEDx, PAGE A6

SGA talks Bon Appétit, Latin honors system

By MARY KATE TURNER
Staff Writer

This Tuesday's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting focused on two main issues: reactions to an article about Bon Appétit featured in last week's issue of *The News-Letter* and an ongoing debate over whether Hopkins should adopt a Latin honors system.

The Bon Appétit article centered on the grievances of four Fresh Food Café (FFC) employees regarding the replacement of Aramark with Bon Appétit as the University's new dining provider. According to the four FFC employees, the staff is upset by Bon Appétit's decisions to cut back workers' hours as well as let go of workers who have

been at Hopkins for many years. Furthermore, the employees also reported substandard workplace conditions among numerous other complaints.

The article quickly sparked the attention of readers and brought Real Food Hopkins member Noah Erwin to the SGA meeting with a request. Real Food Hopkins is a student organization dedicated to bring local, sustainable, humane food to campus.

Erwin, on behalf of the group, asked SGA to issue a statement via email to the student body requesting that students remain respectful of staff workers and not to inquire about their working conditions without having the full

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NEWS & FEATURES

Senior becomes Gates Cambridge scholar

By **RITIKA ACHREKAR**
For *The News-Letter*

Senior Stephen Filippone was selected as one of 40 nationwide recipients of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, a prestigious honor awarded to outstanding students from outside the United Kingdom.

The scholarship will enable him to do independent research for a year at Cambridge University as he completes his Masters degree. After his year at Cambridge, Filippone hopes to return to the United States to pursue his PhD.

Filippone plans to do research in the area of organic solar cells and eventually go into academia. He sees solar cells as an energy source becoming more prevalent in applications like powering homes and possibly even small devices such as cell phones.

"When I came to Hopkins, I [thought] I wanted to be a doctor, but I realized that I wanted to be a doctor for all the wrong reasons," Filippone, a Materials Science and Engineering major, said.

Filippone's first research experience was an NSF-funded Research Experience for undergraduates at Vanderbilt University the summer following his freshman year. His project was to improve the strength of concrete using carbon nano-fibers.

"After that summer I started working for Dr. Falk [at Hopkins] doing computational material science," Filippone said. "I was more interested in energy materials so that's what I was working on the next two summers at Northwestern, and that's what I'm doing now."

Filippone has a variety of interests outside of research. For one, he is very passionate about education.

"My parents inspire me. It's cliché but true," Filippone said. "They never pressured me to study anything, they just pressured me to study something. They stressed a large importance on education."

Filippone has worked with children through the Incentive Mentoring Program during almost all of his time at Hopkins. The program helps underperforming students graduate from high school. Last semester, he started working with the Principal Investigator of his lab to develop a STEM education program in Baltimore schools.

"I'm interested in education, especially K through 12. I want to end up as a professor and teach at a level that's more interesting to me, but I really see myself going back, maybe

later in life, and teach at a lower grade level. I think it is way more important and more crucial to teach at that level because once you get college-aged students they either made it or they didn't," he said.

Filippone also directs his effort to other causes such as social justice issues.

"The one that strikes closest to home is immigration reform," he said.

Filippone is from Los Fresnos, Texas, a small town near the US-Mexico border.

"My Mom is from Mexico, and I grew up on the border my whole life. Luckily she was a dual citizen since birth. My Dad was working in Mexico when they met. After that they moved to the United States, and I was born a little later," Filippone said. "When I grew up there [Los Fresnos], I kind of didn't know who they [undocumented immigrants] were, and I was surprised to find out later. I lived in a little bubble of ignorance for a long time, and I didn't realize that a lot of the people I knew, people who were friends, were undocumented."

In college, Filippone has volunteered with Casa de Maryland, a non-profit that helps immigrants find jobs, take English lessons and become legalized.

According to Kelly Barry, director of the National Fellowships and Scholarships Program at Hopkins, Filippone's combined outstanding academic record and interest in leading social change helped him stand out during the Gates application process.

Barry began working with Filippone last year when he was applying for other scholarships.

"He has not only an excellent transcript, coursework and GPA, but he also has multiple research experiences in three different universities," Barry said. "For the Gates Cambridge, you have to be a complete person with the right interests and Stephen has those things as well. In particular, they are looking for applicants who tend to have some real social impact in the world."

As Barry helped Filippone with writing applications and preparing for interviews, she got to know his disposition.

"He's absolutely unanxious [sic] which is unusual in the context of today's undergraduates at a high pressure place like Hopkins," Barry said. "So even though he's working at a very high level, he's not worried by anything at all, and I find that very refreshing."



ELLEN BRAIT/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Members of the University community sign a banner at the Commemoration Ball, which marked the 138th anniversary of the school's founding.

Toomre leads revival of Commemoration Ball

By **FRANK BRANCATI**
For *The News-Letter*

This past Monday saw the revival of the Hopkins Commemoration Ball. The event, which hasn't taken place since 2001, commemorates the school's founding and the swearing in of the University's first president, Daniel Coit Gilman.

The Hopkins Student Government Association (SGA), the Office of Student Life, the Hopkins Alumni Association and the Hopkins Parent fund all contributed to the event.

The student in charge of the event, sophomore and SGA Executive Secretary Kyra Toomre, was pleased with how the ball turned out.

"It's the rebirth of an old university tradition. It's a chance for members throughout the Johns Hopkins community, be it undergraduates, graduates, administrators or alumni to come together

and celebrate the university that we are all so lucky to be a part of," Toomre said in a speech given at the event.

Following her speech, Associate Dean of Student Programming Tiffany Sanchez gave a few remarks, thanking Director of Student Activities Rob Turning and Coordinator of Campus Programs Janet Kirsch as well as announcing the winners of the raffle held at the event. Winners of the raffle received a variety of Hopkins-related merchandise and gear.

In an interview with *The News-Letter* later that evening, Toomre discussed what went into coordinating the event and her future hopes for the Commemoration Ball at Hopkins.

"I went to Dean [of Student Life] Boswell and Vice Provost [of Student Affairs] Shollenberger with this idea last year, and together with Janice Bonsu we made it blossom

into what it is tonight," Toomre said.

Toomre was pleased with the evening.

"Everyone seems to be enjoying the event so we are really happy with it. The event really wouldn't have been possible without the development and Alumni Relations and Dean Boswell, along with Student Government. They provided the funding for this. Tickets were extremely cheap compared to what the actual event was, and they listened to our idea and allowed us to run with it," she said.

Toomre was also emphatic that the Commemoration Ball would take place again next year.

The event was held at the Engineers Club in Mount Vernon. The establishment itself is a famous Baltimore historical site — the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion. The venue sported several large halls and a dance floor. Hot hors d'oeuvres

and drinks, including a bar for attendees over 21, were provided, as well as desserts at the end of the evening.

"I thought it was great. I mean, I'm not on SGA anymore so it was different for me being an actual attendee rather than someone who was putting it together, but I really enjoyed it. I'm amazed by the turn out, seeing as this is an event that is historical, but hasn't happened very often in the past few decades even," former Sophomore Class President Alex Koren said.

In a follow up email to *The News-Letter*, Toomre stated that ticket sales for the event were just shy of 400.

"Many people who are not part of greek life do not normally have a chance to participate in formal dance like events so it was great to see so many people from all different circles of the undergraduate population out," Toomre added.

Bloomberg professors to work across fields

By **AMANDA AUBLE**
Staff Writer

On Feb. 17, University President Ronald J. Daniels and Provost Robert Lieberman named Peter Agre, Kathryn Edin and Carol Greider as the first of 50 Bloomberg Distinguished Professors.

In an email to students, Daniels and Lieberman expressed their excitement.

"We are absolutely delighted today to announce the first three appointments to those prestigious endowed chairs," Daniels and Lieberman wrote.

A year ago, alumnus and former Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg donated \$350 million to the University, part of which is earmarked for 50 new Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships (BDPs).

These professors will each serve as leaders in their specific departments to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration across the entire University.

Agre, a current professor of molecular microbiology and immunology in the School of Public Health and co-winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, will now anchor the departments of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, Medicine and Biological Chemistry, spanning the public health and medical schools.

"My first reaction was of awe when the Bloomberg Distinguished Professorship program was

first announced," Agre wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "What an incredible act of generosity by Mr. Bloomberg to make such an important gift to his alma mater 50 years after graduation. 50 world-class scholars will become BDPs on our campuses. My second reaction was of humility when I was informed that I will receive a Bloomberg Distinguished Professorship."

Edin, previously a professor of public policy and management at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, a position she had held since 2007, is noted for her books detailing how single mothers

make ends meet, why poor women prioritize motherhood before marriage and how economic and cultural changes have altered the role of fathers among the inner-city poor.

At Hopkins, Edin will become a leader in the Institute for the American City and teach in both the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Public Health.

Greider, currently the director of the Department of Molecular Biol-

ogy and Genetics at Johns Hopkins Medicine, was appointed the new title in the molecular biology and genetics departments in the School of Medicine and in the biology department in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Greider was the co-winner of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

According to President Daniels, the selection process for the appointments focused on the candidates'

academic merits as well as their potential to collaborate.

"Bloomberg Distinguished Professors must be exceptional scholars and teachers. They must be ready, willing and able to contribute

significantly to collaborative, cross-disciplinary scholarship and education. And their academic background must make them suitable for appointment to be on the faculties of more than one of our schools," Lieberman said.

In their email to the student body, Daniels and Lieberman also linked the Bloomberg Professorships to the University's Ten by Twenty plan for the future and, specifically, the "One University" initiative to pro-

mote interdisciplinary research and to combat current complex issues.

"What is new, however, is the complexity of the issues that humanity faces in the 21st century," Daniels and Lieberman wrote. "What is new is the breadth and depth of the knowledge that must be leveled against those complex problems. And what is new is an absolute dedication, from the faculty, deans, university administration, and loyal supporters of Johns Hopkins, to make collaboration across disciplinary and divisional borders less occasional and more standard operating procedure."

Agre, who has been associated with Hopkins for 35 years, feels that the new appointments are reinforcements of the already strong dedication to collaborative research at the University.

"From my view, Johns Hopkins has always been a very special place. One where you can hear yourself think but where you are also welcomed by others to discuss ideas and even to collaborate. I sincerely hope this does not change, but I also hope that now, as one of the Johns Hopkins elders, I can inspire our young learners to make the most of their opportunities throughout the university."

Hopkins students and faculty can look forward to hearing about many more new appointments in the future as the other 47 posts are filled.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Hopkins wireless network fails to serve community

By MADDIE GOODMAN
For The News-Letter

On Feb. 18, junior Aryel Abramovitz found himself in a bind. On B level of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library two hours before class, he was unable to connect to the Hopkins internet network.

"I had a class at noon, and I needed to print something out for it, and the Internet was down two hours prior," Abramovitz said. "Me and a few other students in my class weren't able to print out the assignment that was due at noon; luckily the professor was lenient and gave us a few extra hours."

This semester, students have expressed difficulties with the Homewood campus internet and wireless systems.

"Really, it is a wireless problem, not an internet problem," Hopkins Chief Network Officer Dean Zarriello said.

The University uses three different internet providers. This ensures that if one provider is experiencing an outage, Hopkins will not be without internet.

Most students connect to the web wirelessly through access points spaced all around campus, mainly installed in different buildings.

"Pretty much most of the campus is covered with wireless technology," Zarriello said.

Just last year, the Hopkins Information Technology (IT) department completed a project to cover even outdoor areas with wireless internet access.

"Hopkins is such a rigorous institution, and being connected to the internet is such an important part of modern studies," Abramovitz said.

In the middle of fall semester, the Student Government Association (SGA) created an ad hoc committee to address issues with technology and communication on the Homewood campus. The committee has since expired, but the former members — such as Senior Class Senator and member of the Student Services Committee Aaron Tessler — continue to work to improve communications and technology on campus.

"The tech committee was charged with all issues related to technology or ways that students use technology," Tessler said. "Communication between students and the administration or students and the University related to technological issues, that could be really a wide bubble."

SGA's approach with respect to technology issues on campus has been to act as a catalyst for communication between the student body and the IT department.

"[SGA is] making the avenues for communication for technological problems more open and more clear to students. For example, one thing we worked on was allowing students to report bad spots of wifi in the dorms," Tessler said.

SGA created a survey focused around where students would like to see more or better internet service on campus. This survey led to the IT department's initiative to add more access points in outdoor areas.

The IT department underscores the importance of student feedback, whether it is from individual students or SGA. This input allows the department to make necessary improvements around campus.

"We work hard on expanding wireless coverage throughout the Homewood campus, and we would really like to know if there are certain buildings that have weaker coverage so that we can address them," Zarriello said.

Often times, such as in Abramovitz's situation, students refrain from contacting the IT help desk, partly as a result of the frequency in which they experience problems.

"I'm pretty used to it going up and down, so I knew it would be resolved quickly. So no, I didn't notify anyone," Abramovitz said.

Students usually try self-fixes instead of seeking help from the University.

"When the Hopkins internet didn't work, I tried logging into the guest network, and that's always a pain, so I kind of gave up on that and used my phone's hot-spot ability," Abramovitz said.

Zarriello outlined that the IT department is prepared to assist students with wireless issues.

"If they are really having a problem that they can't get access to wireless somewhere, they [can] call the help desk and file a ticket, and then we can get the ticket routed to the correct group so we can have somebody follow up with them," Zarriello said.

An online form can be found on the Hopkins website to notify the IT department of glitches in the system.

Student input is the IT department's primary avenue for discovering what areas of campus need the most help in terms of connectivity issues. Tessler thus emphasized the importance of student feedback, highlighting the SGA's eagerness to help improve students' internet experiences.

"The committees want nothing more but to hear from students on what the issues are," Tessler said.



Seniors Samantha Ritwo (left) and Devin Alessio (right) each enjoy a three-course meal at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar.

Restaurant Week highlights local cuisine

By ELIZABETH ARENZ
For The News-Letter

This past week marked Baltimore's sixth annual Winter Restaurant Week, beginning on Feb. 16 and running through Feb. 23. Though the city also hosts this event in the summer, its winter iteration tends to be more highly publicized and celebrated with more gusto.

The weeklong occasion, this year entitled, "Absolutely Fabulous," featured fixed-price brunches, lunches and dinners at a total of 83 local eateries. Among those included on the list, several have earned spots on the list of top 50 restaurants in Baltimore for calendar year 2013, as ranked by Baltimore Magazine.

The eighth restaurant on the magazine's list, Sotto Sopra, is known for its indulgent Italian cuisine and participated in this year's restaurant week. Junior Jenna Santoro, who had dined at the ristorante before and was familiar with the high quality of food, chose to take advantage of the lowered prices this week.

"The ravioli was the best pasta I've ever had in my life and I just spent a semester in Italy," she said.

Many students take advantage of restaurant week because of the great value created by uncharacteristically low prices and consistent quality with respect to food.

Junior Nicole Babaknia also returned to a location at which she had dined previously, The Helmand Restaurant, choosing to do so because of its unique Afghan fare and convenient location in Mt. Vernon.

"The food was just as good as when I went [before] but this time we got four different courses," she said.

Babaknia elaborated on the service and how the staff managed to maintain a level of excellence despite the restaurant week rush.

"The waiter was extremely hospitable and he seemed like he really wanted us to be there," she said.

Prices for the week range between \$15 and \$30 for a two-course lunch at those locations with daytime dining options and \$20 to \$30 for a three-course dinner. Although the deals have attracted a large turnout in years past, this year seemed especially fruitful for many local Baltimore eateries.

Ahmed Hasan, assistant general manager of Lebanese Taverna, a restaurant participating in the event, commented on the high numbers of customers his establishment drew in the past week.

"I can only speak for this year versus last year [but] this year has proven to be more successful," he said.

Still, restaurant week may not have reached its

full potential as many members of the community simply miss the hype and only realize the dates of the occasion after it's too late.

Senior Holly Clarke indicated her frustration that the event was not more widely publicized on campus.

"[My friends and I] thought restaurant week was the week after," she said. "They didn't advertise it very well, and I would have gone somewhere."

Even those that did participate were not all fully satisfied. Santoro, though she did concede that her meal at Sotto Sopra was of a high quality, felt the restaurant might have underserved its guests.

"The food was absolutely delicious. However, the portion sizes were small," she said.

Regardless, those places that chose to partake in the city's weeklong dining

event attracted a significant number of diners and certainly reaped the expected benefits. Several eateries have decided to delay raising prices again as a way of offering another opportunity to eat out to those who let the week slip by.

A representative of Kali's Mezze, which serves Mediterranean tapas heavily influenced by Greek flavors, indicated that his restaurant would be extending its lowered menu prices through March 2.

"We have a weeklong extension, finishing [this weekend]," he said.

The sensation of Baltimore's Winter Restaurant Week 2014 has meant several restaurants have had an incentive to continue offering cuisine at reduced price points. Though Executive Chef and Owner Riccardo Bosio was too busy with preparations for the evening's meal to comment on Sotto Sopra's decision to

prolong its restaurant week deals, a hostess there elaborated on the Mt. Vernon eatery's decision to do so.

"We just had a phenomenal turnout for it," she said.

Hasan of Lebanese Taverna offered his own explanation.

"[Restaurant Week] gives [people] something to look forward to in the dead of winter and this year's [weather] hasn't been nearly as kind to us as last year," he said.

Despite the weather and the added stress of additional Restaurant Week diners, those willing to extend their bargain prices are hoping to continue to see successful business.

All this means more success for those in the business of gastronomy, especially those willing to postpone the end of heightened levels of stress that come with the influx of bargain-seeking diners.

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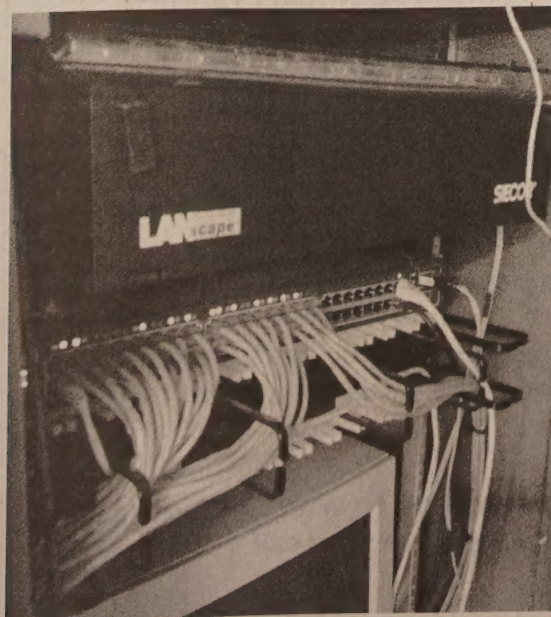
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ELLEN BRAIT/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

This week students experienced wireless internet outages and issues.

NEWS & FEATURES

SGA addresses Bon Appétit, Latin honors

SGA, FROM A1
context in mind.

While Real Food Hopkins said that it values the dining staff and all they do for the school, the group wished to remind students of the formal process that exists to investigate workplace grievances.

Erwin said that the goal of Real Food Hopkins was to get the student body to calm down. He said that students have been pestering the FFC staff while they were on duty, trying to get information out of them.

"We want people to get the full context and refrain from taking a personal vendetta against the dining staff," Erwin said.

SGA, however, was hesitant to oblige for fear of inserting itself into a campus-wide debate.

"The last thing I want is for every group who is unhappy about one thing on campus coming to us and using us essentially as a carrier pigeon system," Executive President Alex Schupper said.

When asked why Real Food Hopkins decided to come to SGA for help rather than send out the message itself or ask *The News-Letter* to write something regarding the issue, Erwin responded by saying that he thought that SGA would be able to get the message across more extensively and effectively.

When the topic was picked back up at the end of the meeting for open discussion, many members agreed with Schupper that the issue was better left unaddressed by SGA. Much of the concern was regarding the wording of the email that Real Food Hopkins had drafted, which some members of SGA saw as overly strident.

Ultimately, a majority voted to table the motion until next week's meeting, when they will discuss once again whether this is an issue worth wading into.

"We're very limited in the number of emails we should be sending. I think that being a third party is a good place for us to be right now," Schupper said.

Among the other is-

ues discussed at Tuesday's meeting was recent steps taken to institute a Latin honors system at Hopkins. While the only honor students can graduate from Hopkins with currently is "General Honors," the new system would allow students to graduate cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude.

The Curriculum Committee, which is made up of students appointed by SGA and faculty, held a meeting of its Engineering School members on Wednesday. Beforehand, members from the School of Arts and Sciences recommended moving forward with the change. The issue will likely now move to the Homewood Academic Council, which

The last thing I want is for every group who is unhappy. . . using us. . . as a carrier pigeon system.

-ALEX SCHUPPER,
EXECUTIVE
PRESIDENT

is debating where to set the cut off percentages determining how many students in each class will earn each honor.

For example, cum laude could encompass anywhere from the top 50 percent to 25 percent of the graduating class with the two higher honors encompassing respectively smaller percentages.

"As you know, Hopkins has a lower GPA than many other academic institutions, [but] Latin honors are more generally recognized by employers," SGA Academic Affairs Committee Chair Andrew Griswold said.

Some SGA members contend that the proposed changes — which could set the cut-off percentages at higher levels than at similar institutions — would benefit some exceptionally high performing students over others with strong but not stratospheric grade point averages. It is also likely that the number of students graduating with honors will decrease under any new Latin honors system, according to several SGA members.

SGA is still contemplating its next move regarding Latin honors. Some members of the SGA are hoping to postpone making the change until the next academic council is seated and the SGA has the opportunity to poll the student body about the idea on the ballot for SGA elections this spring.

Hopkins SJP promotes Israel Apartheid Week

APARTHEID, FROM A1

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Hopkins SJP, which wrote collectively, noted that until recently, various political factions of "Israel-first groups" have dominated the University's array of student organizations. SJP defined these groups as those "whose main interest is supporting 'what's good for Israel.'"

Hopkins SJP views itself as one component in shifting this imbalance.

"SJP aims to create an alternative to this framework and organize actions and campaigns that challenge the status quo," members wrote.

With this in mind, Hopkins SJP has decided to focus their semester on enhancing education and academic freedom. Through Israeli Apartheid Week events, SJP members hope to change the conversation on campus regarding Israeli-Palestinian relations.

"Our main goal is to shift campus discourse about Palestine and Israel away from discussions of 'a conflict' between two equal sides," they wrote. "Instead, we want to challenge the Hopkins community to think critically about the realities of Israeli occupation and colonialism."

The week consists of three main events, which started with Tuesday's discussion of Palestinian solidarity and speakers from Jewish Voice for Peace and Hopkins Students for Justice.

On Wednesday, SJP organized a screening of a film titled *Two Schools in Nablus*, which follows students and teachers as they struggle to learn and teach in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. A discussion on topics including the University's disapproval of the recent American Studies Association's decision to support the academic boycott followed the film. SJP members referred to the University's position on the topic as "disappointing."

Today at 6 p.m. in the Charles Commons Multipurpose Room, SJP will welcome Laila el-Haddad for a conversation on education under Israeli occupation. El-Haddad, who is originally from Gaza City, is a freelance journalist, activist and author.

Also on Tuesday night, the student groups Coalition of Hopkins Activists for Israel (CHAI), Hopkins American Partnership for Israel (HAPI) and J Street U co-hosted a conversation about the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

SJP members stated that they assumed this scheduling was "mere coincidence."

"We engage in activ-

ism that challenges the injustice of occupation and apartheid," they wrote. "Decades of 'peace talks' have not stopped Israel's continuous theft of Palestinian land and the dispossession of its people. We are not interested in events or activism that fails to challenge this status quo."

On the other hand, J Street U founder and member, senior Rachel Cohen, sees some good that could come out of Israeli Apartheid Week on campus.

"J Street U, while unequivocally opposed to the military occupation of the West Bank, rejects the argument that Israel is an apartheid state," Cohen wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "That being said, I know students in J Street U, myself included, that have plans to attend some of the SJP events this week."

J Street, which consists of campus chapters nationwide, defines itself as the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans.

"If anything, [Israeli Apartheid Week] offers an opportunity for us to discover more students on campus who are passionate about the issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Cohen wrote. "It could provide us an opportunity to identify and engage more students later on."

Hopkins SJP is pleased to be among the schools hosting IAW on their campus.

"We are very excited that Israeli Apartheid Week is becoming so widespread on US campuses," the group wrote, "as it signals a growing Palestinian solidarity movement."



ELIZABETH CHEN/ PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Hallways in Charles Commons were drenched after a sprinkler mishap.

False fire alarm triggers sprinklers, douses dorm

Charles Commons experienced water damage after a student accidentally activated the emergency sprinkler system at around 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

"A student inadvertently pulled the sprinkler, and it flooded," Campus Police Sergeant Charles Benjamin said.

The sprinkler head on the fifth floor was activated on the Charles Street side, which resulted in water pouring down to the second floor. Emergency personnel responded to the incident.

"There was an immediate response by the fire department and staff," Associate Dean of Housing, Residential Life and Dining Carol Mohr said. "An

outside restoration company responded, they have assessed the situation and assembled their crew. They will work until into the night to address the problem. Students in four units are being relocated."

As a result of the accumulated water, security restricted access to the lobby and both the fourth and fifth floors on the Charles Street side of the building.

"My roommates told me it was across the hall, and I can't get my textbooks," sophomore Megan Shaub said. "I asked security because I have a midterm tomorrow, and they said it's going to take a couple hours."

—Amanda Auble, Staff Writer

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NEWS & FEATURES

Controversial Facebook page posts more than just 'confessions'

CONFESSIONS, FROM A1
to reduce the amount of cyberbullying and instances of sexual harassment on the page.

"We are not able to read every post and filter them if they are inappropriate," the administrators wrote. "[We have] relied heavily on being notified or contacted via [Facebook] message when a post is inappropriate and is requested to be taken down by either the persons involved or concerned followers of the page."

Several recent posts called students out by name and included disparaging, belligerent and/or sexual remarks. Although the page did not have a search bar, visitors could scroll down to view any old posts that were not deleted by the administrators.

For example, a post that said "[Name redacted] is a huge slut" was posted on Feb. 15 and remained on the JHU Confessions page for over a week.

Many recent posts have included controversial statements about race, especially concerning the selection of hip-hop artist J. Cole as this year's Spring Fair concert headliner. Those posts sparked extensive debate in their corresponding comment threads.

Another example of a racially charged post that received much attention was: "Why do black girls join white sororities?" Comment responses for the Feb. 20 post included "Because we live in the 21st century," and, "Why do people like you feel the need to ask this? I think that's a more

interesting question."

The page also received a number of posts that dealt with sexual orientation, including a Feb. 21 post asking: "Why is being gay celebrated as 'diversity'?"

If the liberal scientific community would stop celebrating it and treat it instead as a disorder, then research and funding would go into finding a way to cure it." Comment responses included, "How about we just stop hating people for who they are" and "This is a joke, right?" "We know [offensive posts are] one of the shortcomings of the auto-posting system," the administrators wrote.

When such posts did slip through the cracks, they usually generated backlash from page followers.

"When I see posts that are misogynistic, downright creepy or just have flaws in what they're trying to say, I usually try to go ahead and point those out," sophomore Kevin Wells said.

Additionally, students who frequently commented on posts were often called out through anonymous posts. Freshman Bianca Galasso, one of the page's most frequent commenters, was the subject of many posts, both positive and negative.

"The negative backlash [against me] is honestly kind of funny," Galasso said. "When people attack me, I just take it with a grain of salt and have fun with it. What am I going to do, get mad at someone who is not brave enough to confront me in person?"

Although Galasso said

she wasn't upset by the negative posts about her, she did feel that mean-spirited posts were distracting readers from the positive aspects of the page.

"Saying something mean about someone can make or break them," Galasso said. "People can be very critical behind the keyboard."

Although many recent posts have spawned lengthy discussions in the comment threads and follow-up anonymous confessions, frequent page commenter and junior Maxwell Collard said

he thought many recent posts have been submitted by people just looking to stir up the pot.

"[The automatic posting system] gives play to a lot of trolling," Collard said. "Even though it's valuable to maintain an open forum of debate, it is not valuable to blatantly attack someone else. There shouldn't be a sequence of five posts one after the other about one individual, berating them."

Although he said the cyberbullying was disheartening to read, Collard defended students' right to get their confession posted on the page.

"I am really against censorship, especially by an anonymous, unilateral body which none of us have any say about," Collard said. "There's a problem that

happens when people have things they'd like to say, but feel that they can't because of social pressure. It's good that there's an outlet where people are able to create some kind of public discussion about various kinds of things, though some of them might be ridiculous or things that people shouldn't have said in the first place."

Former frequent JHU Confessions contributor and sophomore Jordan Britton claimed that although derogatory posts would stay on the page for

several days, the administrators were quick to censor submissions that criticized the page itself.

"I brought that up to them, and they blocked me

from commenting for a day," Britton said. "I [only got back my] commenting ability when I made a confession about it."

JHU Confessions also received a number of submissions from people threatening self-harm. Galasso, Collard and many other frequent commenters posted advice and tried to encourage people to go to the counseling center and peer-listening service A Place To Talk (APTT).

"The important thing is that they are reaching out in some capacity," Collard said. "There is a community of people who actually care and who will say 'I

have been there.'"

Galasso also said one of the main reasons why she liked contributing to JHU Confessions is because she felt like she was making a difference in someone's life.

"When I was going through things in high school, I didn't have anyone there saying 'It's going to be okay,'" Galasso said. "People contact me almost on a daily basis [to] say thanks for being so brave and trying to help people. It's fostered an environment of compassion and empathy openly online."

Although the page had been largely dominated by negative posts prior to being shut down, there were still a large number of serious confessions posted every day.

"If people calmed down with the ridiculous stuff, it [would] actually [be] a pretty interesting thing to read," Galasso said.

Collard also noted that the page's frequent commenters had formed their own community.

"It's sucked up a good amount of my life recently, but on the whole it's been positive for me personally and for the community," Collard said. "It's good to see the Hopkins community band together to do something, even if that thing is an Internet discussion."

The JHU Confessions Facebook page was not the first confessional page of its kind. Previously, Hopkins students posted anonymous confessions on an unrelated JHU Confessions website. Although the Hopkins sections of national college confession forum Collegiate

ACB are still online, they have not seen significant activity in over a year.

On Reddit, a JHU Confessions subreddit was created on Feb. 20 but has not gained traction either. The administrator of the subreddit, a user under the name "jhuconfessions," did not respond to a direct Reddit message from *The News-Letter*.

Before JHU Confessions was shut down, the administrators wrote that they hoped to clean up the page to make it more entertaining and less offensive.

"We started this page for fun, to create a forum for JHU students to discuss and post stories anonymously and hope that it will continue to serve this purpose," the administrators wrote.

Galasso had also expressed hope for the future of JHU Confessions.

"I would say that I would like to see it continue because it is entertaining and a lot of people have come out of the woodworks to help others," Galasso said. "It's a positive thing if used in the right way."

Other students, like sophomore Noor Khalil, said they would not have been surprised before JHU Confessions was taken down if it had lost its popularity.

"I thought it was here to stay in the beginning, but it's been getting too much cyberbullying and too many posts getting put on the page [in general]," Khalil said. "I think people are getting tired of it."

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NEWS & FEATURES

Onion features editor jokes about news media, fills Shriver Hall

FAS, FROM A1
the best paper ever. Richard then segued into the way that *The Onion* works, claiming that Timothy McVeigh and Bashar al-Assad were some of their biggest contributors. According to her not-so-accurate slide-show, *The Onion* had nearly 100 trillion readers, about 100 times the amount of readers than other popular publications. She threw in a jab at *The New York Times* and even *The News-Letter*.

"Journalistic integrity: *Onion* scores 6.0, *New York Times*, basically nothing, *Washington Post*, nothing, CNN, nothing, *JHU News-Letter*, you know?" she said.

Richard then actually explained what goes on behind the scenes at *The Onion*. They just moved to Chicago from New York and have nine full time staff members and three graphic editors who have to tell about 1,500 jokes per week. For the jokes to move onto the next stage of production, people have to actually laugh at them, which can be nerve-wrecking.

The newspaper also does all of its own photo shoots. People from the office pose and then Photoshopped the final image later.

"I was surprised that there were only 12 people on staff, and the fact that they just sort of take staffers and make Photoshop pictures out of them specifically," senior Kevin Joyce said.

Joyce expressed that, while he thought Richard was funny, she could have been more creative with her PowerPoint presentation.

"It seemed like it was

pretty cut and dry, formulaic and how they present to any school," he said.

The Onion also has a dedicated group of people who like to comment on their articles. Richard explained that these people are usually unaware that the articles are satire.

Some real news outlets also seem to be unaware that *The Onion* is satire. Richard showed examples of Chinese and Iranian outlets as well as *Fox News*, all of which reported on *The Onion's* articles as if they were real news.

The question and answer session that followed Richard's talk ranged from questions about how the newspaper decides what to focus on to ones about how writers are selected. Richards explained that most people who get jobs there took part in their fellowship.

When a student asked her if he could read out *New York Times* headlines and have her create satirical headlines on the spot, she declined, because the headline process at *The Onion* usually takes a long time.

"That would be so hard to do," she said. "I would embarrass myself."

The News-Letter caught up with Richard after the show to talk about why she came to Hopkins and what she thought of the people here. She explained that she was actually asked to speak at the event last minute, as her co-worker couldn't make it due to the flu.

"Everyone seems really smart, really just funny, knows their stuff, really

engaged, I was just really impressed with everybody I met," Richard said.

The HOP's Social Media Content Curator, senior Emily Markert, who was in charge of organizing this event on The HOP's side, thought that the evening

went quite well.

"It was awesome," she said. "I didn't know what to expect since she was thrown into it. I didn't realize that it was going to be hilarious."

Markert said that Richard was happy with how the event went as well.

Junior Leah Barresi, who is on FAS's Marketing Team, also thought that the event was a success and looks forward to the rest of the speakers this semester. She said that it was hard to think of speakers that represent the idealism side

of FAS's theme, and that *The Onion* struck a balance between idealism and realism because it takes a light-hearted look at serious issues.

"It keeps idealism in the face of depressing realism," she said.

TEDx event draws international attention

TEDx, FROM A1
audiences of many more who would thoroughly enjoy going to another TEDx event."

Mark Meadows, a professional musician, opened the event by improvising a jazz number on the keyboard. He went on to explain the process of improvisation by drawing comparisons to the components of language and then demonstrating these ideas by improvising a rendition of "Come Together" by the Beatles.

He was followed by Jeff Pulver, an Internet entrepreneur best known for co-founding Vonage and Zula. Pulver discussed how opening up on social media and being vulnerable to his friend network gave him the motivation to lose over 100 pounds. He did one-arm push ups on stage to demonstrate the extent of his transformation from his former 334-pound self.

"I think it was really cool that he founded all these things like Vonage, and you would expect him to talk about that, but he was talking about something totally different. I think that was surprising, but interest-

ing," Colrick said.

The next few speakers were faculty members.

Richard Brown, director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Mathematics, talked about his academic journey, which began with architecture and eventually led to math. He talked about how math is more than just numbers; he described it as an art form that tries to create value systems.

Professor Bruce Marsh from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences discussed his adventures traveling to remote places like Antarctica and the Aleutian Islands to research the subterranean magma system.

Some of the other Hopkins-affiliates who shared their ideas were neuroscientist Mark Mattson, theoretical physicist David Kaplan and PILOT Learning program coordinator Laura Foster.

New York-based Swiss entrepreneur Fabian Pförtmüller closed the event with a speech about finding success. Pförtmüller founded a company called Holstee with a 17-sentence manifesto inspiring people to

live happy lives. Despite the manifesto becoming popular, Pförtmüller struggled to find what would come next for him. He said that once he stopped searching for success, he remembered what loving life was like, which he viewed as success in itself.

Although the event lasted just five hours, it took almost an entire year to organize. The idea was conceived last March by Latifi.

"I've been watching TED videos since high school, and I've always wanted to go to an event," Latifi said. "I noticed last year that other universities had TEDx events, but at Hopkins it didn't exist. So I decided, let me just do it. It will be fun."

In March 2013, Latifi teamed up with junior Brian Tung, senior Daniel Willen and junior Yvana Ahdab to try to execute his idea. In September, they recruited another eight team members at the Student Activities Fair, some of whom had prior experience organizing TEDx events at their high schools.

"It was a long process," Latifi said. "You have to apply to TED for a license, and that's a whole application process to go through with

paper work and essays. Then you have to apply to the school, and they have to let you be a club. And then you have to book a venue, get all the speakers ready and get a whole team together."

The team is looking to build on this year's success and attract even more interesting speakers for TEDx next year.

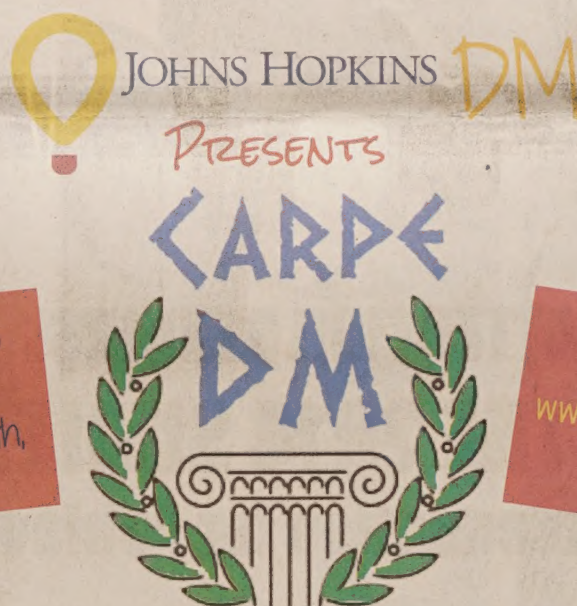
Latifi said that next year they hope to include student speakers as part of the lineup. The team also hopes that next year's lineup will be more gender balanced. This year only one out of the eight speakers was a woman.

Haviv is looking forward to next year's event.

"My favorite speakers were the ones, interestingly enough, that spoke about the subjects I would never imagine myself being interested in. For example, Professors Brown, Marsh and Kaplan (Mathematics, Earth Sciences and Dark Matter, respectively) opened my eyes to things I fear I may have been missing. Even more so, they showed a true, love and passion for something they loved, and that, in and of itself, was inspiring," he said.



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Poehler plunders Biden's lap and Nando's nabs a massive mango



The Fix @TheFix · 1h

Amy Poehler sitting on Joe Biden's lap. My world just exploded. [ow.ly/tZ8eX](#)

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There are many reasons that I want to be Amy Poehler but this is now #1. SHE SAT ON BIDEN'S LAP. I CAN'T. Also I like Seth Meyers a ton but Amy Poehler deserves her own late night show (though I never want *Parks and Rec* to end).



PreVent @PreVent_Bites · 37m

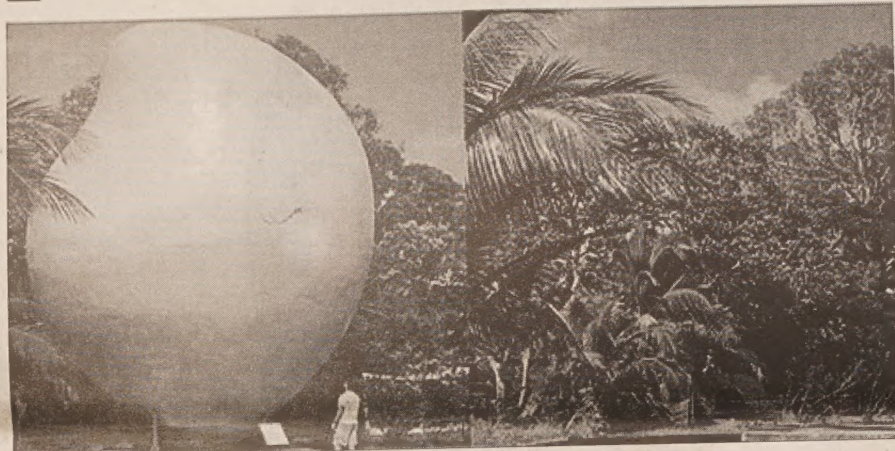
'Stolen' big mango revealed as a hoax by Nando's [goo.gl/o0pCAI](#)

#MangoGate #Australia

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The Guardian



I don't really understand how this mango exists or what #mangogate is. All I know is that Australia owns this giant mango, and it went missing and then we found out that Nando's stole it. But all I can think about when I look at it is *James and the Giant Peach*. Plus I love Nando's chicken so I guess I approve of their thievery.



Overheard at Hopkins @OverheardAtJHU · Feb 20

"I walked past a room of people shouting Beta! It took me a while to realize they were talking about math, not Greek life." #OverheardAtJHU

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Yeah so I would have definitely NOT known that they were talking about math. I promise that I'm smart enough to go here.

Want your tweets featured in this column? Follow me @rachel_witkin or add #jhutweets to the tweets you want me to include!

St. Vincent's return, crazy collabs and more

Get up to date on the latest in releases and news with this quick recap of the week in music

Recent Releases: *Voices*, Phantogram (Feb. 18): The trip-hop influenced electronica duo from Greenwich, N.Y. have finally followed up their debut LP, *Eyelid Movies* (2009), with an album that shows a true progression of their songwriting skills. The signature guitar, synth and vocal manipulation combination that define Phantogram's sound has become even catchier and are definitely worth a listen.

St. Vincent, St. Vincent (Feb. 24): The art rock guitar virtuoso, St. Vincent (real name: Annie Clarke), is following up her critically acclaimed album, *Strange Mercy* (2011), with a self-titled effort. After releasing an album (*Love This Giant*) and touring with David Byrne, Clarke went right into recording what would become this album. The time that Clarke has spent with Byrne has had a clear

influence on her songwriting, which can especially be heard in her first two singles, "Birth in Reverse" and "Digital Witness." If you loved St. Vincent before (how can you not?), you'll probably still love her — if not a little bit more — after listening to this album.

Oxymoron, ScHoolboy Q (Feb. 25): While fellow Black

Hip-hop and Top Dawg Entertainment member Kendrick Lamar has risen in popularity astronomically since the release of his album *good kid, m.A.A.d. city* in 2012, ScHoolboy Q had been busy working on his first major label debut, following up his acclaimed, independently released album, *Habits & Contradictions*. While aware of the precedent set by *good kid, m.A.A.d. city*, Q has never wavered in confidence

with his upcoming album, hoping that people will consider it a classic and find it a distinctive chronicle of gangster rap. Based on the singles ("Collard Greens (ft. Kendrick Lamar)," "Man of the Year," "Blind Threats (ft. Raekwon)," this could potentially be one of the best hip-hop albums of the year.

Music News:

Alex Hurowitz

Music Rx

laboration in an interview, saying that the rapper, who considers Blake to be his favorite artist, had reached out to Blake to potentially work on material. While there is no guarantee that something tangible will come out of this, a collaboration is still something to look potentially forward to, considering how talented the two are as producers.

Meanwhile, Blake and

Chance the Rapper revealed that they plan to become roommates, living together in LA in hopes of creating a "music-making compound." After meeting at SXSW last year and realizing they were fans of each other's material, they started collaborating, which resulted in a remix of Blake's "Life Round Here," released back in September. No word on when anything will be released.

The crazy music collaborations don't stop there: It was also recently revealed that Chance the Rapper, Skrillex and Mike Will Made It have been working on music as well. While there is no word on when they will release their material (Skrillex said it could be at any point in time), Skrillex revealed a new song from this team-up at a recent show in Brooklyn featuring a refreshing production that doesn't feature the "glitchiness" that Skrillex is usually known for.

@rachel_witkin

Tweets of the Week

This weekly column features some of the top posts around the Twitter realm that deal with the week's top stories in sports, politics, pop culture and all things news.

"Nom" your way to alertness and health

Lack of sleep and stress may not be the only things making you feel depleted. Nutrition plays a huge role as well. I don't think people realize just how impactful their diets can be.

I have slight anemia, but I manage to keep it under control. In fact, I often forget that I'm anemic. Usually I get a reality shock when I'm overseas. While I was in Brazil, I didn't

realize how my new diet was affecting my body. The influx of Brazilian fruits and smoothies gave me glowing skin, and my hair grew faster. The water — free of fluoride — kept me hydrated and loose. However, I wasn't getting enough iron in my diet. After a week or so, I began to feel extremely tired and lightheaded.

It's hard to keep a balanced diet all of the time; however, you should put forth your best effort to do so. The nutrients and minerals in your diet are directly absorbed into your body and have visible effects. The skin is the largest organ you have, and, while lotions and other topical solutions do help, the key to healthy skin really lies in your diet. How often do we pour conditioners, shampoos, oils and other substances onto our hair and scalp? These are great aids, but your diet affects your hair health starting from within. Energy drinks are quick solutions for a weary Hopkins soul, but a diet rich in antioxidants can keep you energized without experiencing an insane sugar crash later.

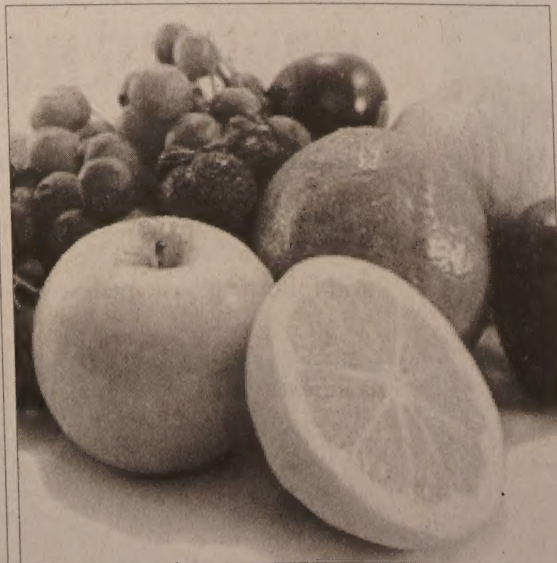
With that said, let's go over the basics for healthy eating. According to the healthy plate method, half of your plate should consist of vegetables, one fourth of your plate should consist of meats (or some protein substitute) and the other fourth of your plate should consist of carbs. Add one bowl of fruit, one glass or bottle of water and one glass of fruit juice or milk and you are good to

go. I'm sure most of you have heard about the whole "five servings of fruits and vegetables" saying. When I first heard that, I thought to myself, "How in the world am I going to eat five servings of fruits and vegetables a day?" I put my Hopkins education to work and figured out a way to make it less daunting. Two servings of fruit at breakfast (e.g. one banana and one cup of grapes) + two

servings of vegetables at lunch (e.g. salad) + one serving of fruit at lunch (e.g. one orange) + two servings of vegetables at dinner (e.g. one cup of carrots and one cup of green beans) = seven servings of fruits and vegetables! That gives you plenty of wiggle room. One shortcut is to pick your favorite fruits and blend them into a smoothie. One glass could count for around three servings.

Drinking liquids with calcium is extremely beneficial. It's important to build up your calcium levels now, so that as you age your bones don't become as brittle. Think of all of this as an investment in becoming a healthy individual. We're all going to get old one day, so we might as well be fit and awesome old people. As far as water intake, you're safe with consuming approximately half of your body weight in ounces. A helpful tip is to carry around a large water bottle, that way you don't have to refill it as often, and after drinking about three "servings" you're done with your water intake.

Just as you do with your studies, put in the effort now so that you can reap the benefits later (except in the case of nutrition, "later" can be minutes from now). Space and divide your meals so that your metabolism is always in shape. Also, keep in mind that your diet will never be perfect 100 percent of the time, so you should aim to eat as well as you can. Yes, that means you can have cheat days, but don't cheat your health.



COURTESY OF ASHLEY BEE VIA FLICKR
Incorporating more fruit into your diet is much easier than you think.

HIP HOP

BUT ALSO observations, rants, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and, of course, sex.

A lifelong fan prepares for Jeter's goodbye

I can't imagine a summer when my family's soundtrack will not exclusively consist of the Yanks' radio network.

It is on all the time, heard in the background on my Dad's transistor radio. Whenever I went to my grandma's house, we always had to yell at the front door when we walked in because she couldn't hear us over the afternoon game. My grandma and grandpa were some of the biggest Yankee fans I will ever know.

My grandma grew up in the Bronx, up the block from Yankee Stadium. My grandpa saw Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio play. My dad and my uncles saw Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford and Yogi Berra. I got to see Mariano Rivera and, most of all, Derek Jeter.

The Yankees are a huge part of my childhood because they have meant so much to three generations of my family, and they mean so much to my dad. So they mean a lot to me. In the wake of Derek Jeter's announcement last week that this season will be his last, this is the perfect time to reflect upon his impact on my favorite team and on what his retirement means for a lifelong fan.

Derek Jeter was drafted a year before I was born and started playing when I was three years old.

During the playoffs when I was three, I got to stay awake until the first inning to give my Dad a high five and yell "Go 'ankees" for luck. There has never been a time when Derek Jeter wasn't on my team, a time I can recall when he wasn't the captain or a time when he wasn't the most consistently stupendous player. You could tell he always played hard, and he always had the confidence that he could make the big play when it counted. We always had faith in Captain Clutch. My dad in particular always supported him, even when

he wasn't having the best season, but I can't recall many times when that happened. Even if I haven't seen all of Derek's amazing plays in real time, like "the flip" or when he dove into the stands, I have heard them recounted by my dad many times, and each time fills me with pride for my team.

I've had other favorite players — most recently Curtis Granderson, who left — and I really liked Jorge Posada, but I always knew that Jeter was my favorite. He is the perfect player in my favorite sport. He is multiethnic and handsome. He has always seemed calm and self-assured, giving you hope that the team could come back and win. I loved seeing his parents in the au-

dience — and it seemed like they were there for every game. I love the fact that he set up the Turn 2

Foundation to help kids who were in trouble. I love that he wanted a recording of Bob Sheppard (the Yankee Stadium public address announcer who died a few years ago after announcing players for 50 years) to introduce him every time he stepped up to the plate. I loved seeing his clenched fist and smile at the end of a win. I loved seeing his eyes squint when he got up to the plate. That was one of the most unbelievable things about him — he made it look so easy. You could never see what kind of pressure he was under. No amount of taunting or yelling from the stadium could take his focus.

Elizabeth Sherwood

My Favorite Things

I can't think of a better person to represent my team and my city.



COURTESY OF KEITH ALLISON VIA FLICKR

Derek Jeter broke the hearts of Yankees fans everywhere after announcing that this would be his last season.

Duke porn star deals with hate from peers

A hot tidbit of gossip that everyone has been forwarding on their office computers in the past couple of weeks is the discovery of a porn star who is currently a freshman enrolled at a university. Not just any university, though; the 18-year-old porn star in question attends Duke University, one of the nation's most prestigious schools. A university like Duke is, ostensibly, supposed to represent values such as virtue and integrity, whereas the porn industry is often seen as the antithesis of these qualities. I guess one thing that both have in common is hard work.

When it was discovered that there was a porn star in the Duke's freshman class, the whole nation was sent into a spiral of shock. How could this be? How could someone who represents the epitome of promiscuity, smut and all that is wrong with teenagers in our country simultaneously attend one of the nation's top tier universities? Message boards on the Internet have been abuzz with threads and links calling for this girl to drop out of school, calling her a "slut who needs to learn the consequences of her actions." People have viewed her as offensive and unworthy of her academic standing because of her history as a sex worker.

Well, the porn star herself has decided to share her voice. Recently, the porn star, who has tried very hard to keep her name from spreading, has taken to Internet discussion forums such as Reddit to share her opinion on the issue. She has decided that if people are going to talk about her any-

way that she might as well have a say in the conversation in trying to steer this toward a productive dialogue. The points she makes are very interesting. She laments that being a sex worker is considered a degrading position and argues that starring in pornography has been the most empowering experience of her life. People are quick to judge women who sleep with a lot of men

but when the situation is reversed the man receives praise. She asserts that women should take control of their sexuality, that society shouldn't be so quick to label people based on their sexual preferences and personal choices that have absolutely no effect on others. Since the secret spilled and proliferated all throughout the Duke campus a couple of months ago, she has been the subject of mass scorn and shame. The comments have been so hurtful that it is nearly impossible for this girl to continue her education at Duke.

My question is, if this were to happen at a different university would the students respond in the same way? If this were to happen at Hopkins, would we as a student body collectively humiliate this girl to her breaking point? Or would we be mature and restrained enough to respect the little privacy this girl has left? The entire nation is already talking about her, it seems like she could really use some benevolence on behalf of Duke's student body. This poor porn star's future prospects are not dim, however she now has to live with this stigma for quite some time. Hopefully she will be able to overcome this large obstacle and continue to pursue her passions without judgment being passed.

Michael Louis Rosin
Music, Movies and More

A savory Saturday afternoon at Atwater's in Belvedere Square

Despite York Road's out-of-sync traffic lights and excruciating traffic, I decided to make my way to Belvedere Square last Saturday. I lamentingly admit that this was my first time visiting Belvedere Square, a coalition of retail shops, restaurants, specialty food stores, and a market that proved to be the center of activity. It was a lot to take in. But I had one objective from which I would not stray, and that was to dine at Atwater's.

Atwater's is located within the market at Belvedere Square, surrounded by other food vendors like Chocolate by Jinji and a smoothie bar called Earth's Essence. Walking in, I was overcome with a sensory overload; there were warm, nutty aromas wafting from Atwater's Market Bakery, the clamor of Saturday afternoon diners, and bright and seasonal produce from Maryland farms just a few miles away. I wanted to see everything, to smell everything, to taste everything. But with all of the bustle that the Saturday lunch hour brings, I was only able to get an abridged tour of the market before my boyfriend and I had to swipe a table at Atwater's café.

Atwater's is one of Baltimore's finest makers

and purveyors of foods. In addition to the Belvedere space, the restaurant has four other locations across Maryland and Washington DC. Ned Atwater, the culinary mind behind Atwater's, strives to feature as many locally sourced products as possible, such as free-range eggs from Springfield Farm and Singing Meadow Farm cheddar, to name a few of many. At the Belvedere Square Market, Atwater's features a dairy bar of artisanal cheeses, a bakery that hand shapes award-winning bread, and a café.

Atwater's keeps things simple at its market café. It sells soups, salads, sandwiches, savory pies, cheeses, and desserts. After ordering some bottomless coffee, my boyfriend and I mused over the menu. What immediately stood out was the local produce that the restaurant uses in its dishes — Chesapeake Greenhouse spring mix in the salads, Eberly free-range chicken in the chicken salad, and Plainview Farms turkey in the turkey sandwich. The breads used for the sandwiches are baked daily just a few feet away

at the bakery. Everything on the menu looked fresh, well thought out, and unpretentious. I ordered half of their grilled portabella and a side of Atwater's

ter's chicken salad while my boyfriend ordered the spicy tofu noodle soup and ham barbeque and grafton cheddar sandwich.

The tofu soup came out first with a thick slice of freshly baked bread. The soup was tangy and aromatic, and the cilantro brought a brightness to the broth. Atwater's take on the traditional Asian hot and sour soup wasn't very spicy, but neither of us saw it as a detraction. After another refill of coffee we were served the rest of our food.

A generous side of chicken salad was served atop Boston lettuce. The grilled portabella half came on buttery sunflower flax bread. And the ham barbeque sandwich was served on a brioche bun instead of the usual cheddar biscuit.

The chicken salad was some of the best that I've had. There was just enough mayo to tie everything together and



COURTESY OF CAMILLE TAMBUNTING

Atwater's grilled portabella combines arugula pesto, roasted red peppers and sunflower flax for a hearty treat.

the basil brought a savory depth to balance out the golden raisins. The cranberries were tart and plump, as if they were soaked beforehand. The grilled portabella was one of the only portabella sandwiches that I've eaten that didn't fall apart while I was eating it, and I really enjoyed the nuttiness of the sunflower flax even though I thought I wouldn't. The sandwich fell short on a few notes, however — I didn't get the pepperiness I wanted to from the arugula pesto, and it needed an acidic component to balance out

the oil from the roasted red peppers. There were balsamic onions in the sandwich but they were more sweet than tangy. Still, it was a hearty portion for a half order and I enjoyed the sandwich nonetheless.

The ham barbeque definitely shined that afternoon. The best part of the entire meal was the brioche bun it came on. There's nothing worse than hard, dry brioche but this bun was the best brioche my boyfriend or I had ever eaten. It was buttery and soft, yet not soft enough that it would get

soggy from the red cabbage slaw. The slaw itself was a little too sweet, but the sharpness of the red onions my boyfriend ordered on the side balanced it out.

We were unfortunately too full to order dessert, although I was eyeing the milkshakes made with Taharka Brothers ice cream. At least now I have an excuse to come back (like I really needed one). It will take a few more visits to explore all the market and Belvedere Square have to offer, but I think I can manage that delicious assignment.

Camille Tambunting
A Bite of Baltimore

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Editorial

JHU Confessions needs monitoring

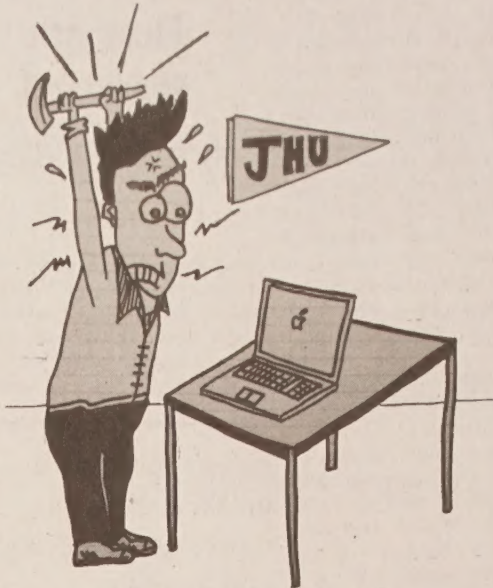
On Monday, JHU Confessions, a student-run Facebook page that posted anonymous confessions from Hopkins students, was deactivated by its administrators. It has been criticized recently for posting offensive, abusive and slanderous comments without filter. The site, which originally only posted submissions after approval by a site moderator, has lately become so frequented that submissions have been released in bulk without discrimination, and incendiary posts are only removed, if necessary, after they have been public on the site for enough time for someone to see them. It is, however, the opinion of the Editorial Board that the site should reactivate, albeit with some changes.

Cyberbullying is an unfortunate and irredeemable side effect of the freedom that the Internet allows. The veil of anonymity that online forums present can invite worthwhile discussion, but sadly, it can also often lead to anonymous airing of dirty laundry — posting of opinions that few would speak out loud and attacking others with no fear of reproach. Public sites like YouTube have to wrestle with an outpouring of hateful comments against races, genders, sexualities and religions, and although the means have been established to flag comments as inappropriate, the comments still proliferate. So it should come as no surprise that certain people attempted to misappropriate the anonymity that JHU Confessions offered to voice their opinions and worse, target specific people at Hopkins. However, that is not the purpose of the site; the true service it aims to provide is much more valuable. JHU Confessions is for exactly that: confessions. A derogatory remark towards a group is not a confession unless it can be considered a con-

fession of one's contempt toward that group, which does not seem to be the aim of most of the hateful posts. Announcing one's opinion that someone at the school is a slut is not a confession; it is impugning someone else's character. A confession is a baring of one's soul, revealing something embarrassing, unsettling, hilarious or anywhere in between. Hopkins provides forums for political debate, counseling for grievances, groups for a variety of interests and encourages free speech, but it does not have another opportunity like JHU Confessions for students to confess themselves and read into the lives of their classmates.

While the Editorial Board recognizes that due to the combined popularity of the site and the time constraints of the site's student moderators it may be difficult to sift through all of the submissions, we believe that strong moderation is crucial to the site's function as a healthy outlet for students. In the absence of a dedication to careful filtering for offensive and abusive content, the site should not return. The process for submission and approval of posts needs to be thoughtfully reexamined: Submissions that are not true confessions but rather statements of opinion should be discarded, and confessions that implicate someone else in a bad way or otherwise puts someone at risk should also be ignored. The current moderators may be overwhelmed by the work involved in running such a popular page, but we are sure they could find volunteers to shoulder some of the load. Amid the work hard, play hard environment of Hopkins it is sometimes hard to truly relax, and if JHU Confessions can offer a respite for students with confessions or a good chuckle for students mired by exams, it is worth keeping.

Oscar Martinez-Yang



LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be e-mailed to chiefs@jhunewsletter.com for inclusion in a Thursday issue. All letters received become property of The News-Letter. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include contact information and cannot be anonymous. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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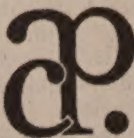
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Gatehouse
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Internet troubles are apocalyptic

Recently, Hopkins students have been having trouble acquiring consistent access to the Internet while on campus. The issue appears to stem primarily from malfunctioning wireless hotspots located around campus, which the University only finished installing last year. The system is designed to provide fast, hassle-free and uninterrupted Internet access to all staff, faculty and students, 24-7, anywhere on campus, indoors or outdoors, in any weather. The outages have reached the frustrating point where students have reported missing deadlines for essays and other work as a result.

The Editorial Board wonders what all the fuss is about, as we can't see any reason why modern students, surrounded by literally millions of books in an enormous library, would ever need to use the Internet for their studies. We worry that the art of the library card and the Dewey decimal system has been completely forgotten by the modern generation, and frankly, that's just tragic. Hopkins has been an elite academic and research uni-

versity for over a century, but the Internet has only been so for about a quarter of that time. What do you think students did before Al Gore came along with his fancy inventions? Come to think of it, the whole trend of using laptops in the classroom has just got to stop. Computers are distracting, and besides, taking notes with a pencil — in cursive — is much faster. How are you going to correct your mistakes without a good old-fashioned eraser? We miss those squeaky, spine-tingling chalkboards too — washable marker are lame.

We're kidding. The Internet is occasionally useful, particularly when it works. In fact, for people as spoiled by instantaneous connections as our generation has become, it's just downright infuriating when it doesn't work. Without reliable wi-fi, people just . . . don't know what to do. No Google? No Facebook? No Pandora? No YouTube? No E-Reserves or Blackboard or ISIS? Without the Internet, I would be so much more productive! Productivity grinds to a total halt. It's downright terrifying, and Hopkins must do something about it.

OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Hopkins should consider offering its speaker series' for class credit

By NATHAN BICK

As students here at Hopkins, we have an embarrassment of riches — but we don't seem to know it. There are too many fascinating symposiums, speaker series, seminars, colloquia, presenters and speakers that go largely unnoticed and unattended by people disconnected from the subject matter or just unlucky enough to not get word.

Although it can be beneficial to put responsibility in the hands of the people, the current system is too decentralized to be effective in promoting these events. The notable variety of the official stated purposes for the many series and events belies the fact that many of them serve the same actual functions yet needlessly differentiate their various crowds based on how they were advertised.

There are the big dogs of the pack, like the MSE Symposium last semester or the Foreign Affairs Symposium this semester, that attract major politicians (like Ron Paul and Martin O'Malley) or media or business people (like members of the *Opinion* staff and reddit founder Alexis Ohanian). There are readings and presentations that students must attend as a part of courses, such as the Graduate Reading Series for IFP I and II or the Department of Military Science Symposium.

But there are so many other events that I fail to mention, and that's the point I'm trying to make. Because there is no unified list, a great opportunity is being lost.

Therefore, I propose that more of these speaking series — pres-

ently categorized under disparate titles — be organized into one credit, S/U classes, which meet weekly or biweekly and are available for registration on ISIS. If necessary, they could have prerequisites on a case-by-case basis as desired by the hosts. There are already certain classes that follow my suggested symposium format. This semester the Economics department offered a new class called Faculty Research in Economics taught by Bruce Hamilton. It is available to students with credit for Elements of Micro and Macro, is a one credit S/U class and meets once a week.

I am in this class, and I am really enjoying it. The concept is that a different member of the Economics faculty gives a lecture each week about his or her research and experiences. Each week is different, fascinating and thought-provoking. I look forward to the class before it happens and reflect on it afterwards. My experience so far has inspired me to write this article in the hopes that I and others might have more opportunities to take classes like this again in the future.

In order to pass the class, on the surface all that is required is to arrive on time and sit in the lecture hall. There is no homework or class work. Naysayers would claim that too many classes like this would jeopardize the academics of the University by removing work and allowing for easy rides. I would refute this by saying that the benefits of the class are solely and entirely the lectures themselves. As a one credit class, there is minimal impact on GPA, it doesn't count as part of the Economics major, and it takes up an hour

and a half of one's day. If need be, there could be a cap on the number of these courses students could take per semester. I seriously doubt many if any people would take a class like this if they were not genuinely interested in the subject matter. And for interested students, this type of class is perfect because it exposes the student to complex ideas not normally suited for undergraduates without the stresses of grades, work or responsibilities.

As an additional complement to an already full schedule, these classes would enrich the student's education and allow for unencumbered freedom of thought. A broad selection of these classes could allow people to experiment with subjects they normally would not touch for fear of failure, acting as either an introduction to or enrichment of a student's interest in a subject.

Clear listings on ISIS would enable more people to have access to these series and would allow the series hosts to have an easier time advertising to their clientele.

Of course, one immediately apparent problem is availability to people not part of the University. There will still be a need for some publicly accessible symposiums as we have them. But the problems of this system could be worked out with discussion and debate by the relevant parties. Obviously the exact system of my single class cannot be directly scaled up to an entire new category of courses here at Hopkins, but the basic ideas are worth trying.

Nathan Bick is a freshman from Washington, DC. He is majoring in economics.

In defense of patriotic belligerence: Wear your pride on your sleeve!

By WILL MARCUS

I am an extraordinarily patriotic guy. I own American flag shirts, shorts, socks, shorter shorts, sweat bands, swimsuits and even boxers. Occasionally, I will wear Ol' Glory on every part of my body at the same time. At major sporting events, you would need Seal Team Six to keep me from joining in on the National Anthem.

But considering my cynical political beliefs, this patriotism would often cause confused friends and concerned loved ones to question my sanity: How could I love a place so much, they wonder, and yet fundamentally disagree with the way it's being run?

For years, my answer to this apparent paradox usually involved a thick southern accent, repetition of the word "Murica" and some good old-fashioned anti-communist expletives. In other words, I fell into the classic teenage cliché of justifying stupid behavior with an even stupider explanation. Eventually, however, I did find my explanation; I just had to cross the Sonora Desert to do it.

On a dusty porch outside "La Posada Milagro," hidden amidst layers of crumbling buildings in the searing desert sun of Terlingua, Texas, two wannabe red-necks felt at home in a strange place. Those strangers were myself and my good friend Will. We sat on that porch for hours on a cool summer night listening to an old, probably toothless man in a Jeff Gordon shirt attack the strings of his blackened, war torn six-string, as he stomped a beat on the ancient floorboards and sang stories about God, love and Johnny Cash. Those boots had probably been resoled as many times as that guitar had been re-lacquered, but they both sounded better than new.

The inhabitants of this ghost town could not have been more

different from us — two city-slicker dumbasses in brand-new steel toes and a needlessly lifted Land Cruiser — yet they embraced us with open arms. For all of our differences, we had one thing in common: We had a small American flag attached to the top of our CB radio whip antenna. In fact, they would probably tattoo the flag onto their foreheads if they could make it the approximately 250 miles to the nearest tattoo parlor on a four wheeler.

I started to think: How can these people, who were so insurmountably removed from the political realm that the TV at the local watering hole still had a rabbit ears, be so passionately patriotic? On the long drive back to Austin I saw flag after flag, eagle after eagle fly by outside of homes and businesses. It was clear that no matter who the president is or what our government does, these people will love America until the day they die.

At this moment I stumbled upon the realization that had somehow eluded me my whole life prior: America has nothing to do with the government of the United States.

America is a rich patrimony of traditions, ideals, tenets and customs that have stood the test of time, especially in places like Terlingua. America is apple pie cooling on the windowsill. America is the good Samaritan that pulls over in the middle of a thunderstorm to give you a jump. America is an old man with nothing but a six string and a pair of tattered boots, sitting on a porch, baring his soul to anyone who will listen.

Other countries often criticize the US government, but in my experience, they f***ing love America. Over intersession I went to Spain, and one day I toured the local gym near my host family's house. The owner was an bald, obese, tracksuit-wearing, Spanish-speaking Albanian named Toni who personally taught every class his gym offered, from "body pump" to "Thai Chi" to

sword fighting. What I remember most from that day was seeing this outrageously talented jack-of-all-trades leading a group of beautiful Spanish women through some questionable yoga "poses" to a remix of "Summer of '69" and "Born in the USA," and my God did I feel the rockets' red glare.

I stumbled upon the realization that had eluded me my whole life prior: America has nothing to do with the government

Before my girlfriend reaches for a ball-point pen or filet knife, I assure you my pleasant sense of astonishment had nothing to do with Cristina, Sofia, Consuelo, Laura or Gabi. Thanks to hands down the sh*ttest remix of American music I've ever heard, I once again felt at home in a strange land.

When you think about what America means to you, make a mental separation between the United States and America. Then think about the America part until you admit that you love it because, deep down, we all do.

So the next time you see a dumbass like me wearing slightly too many stars and slightly too many stripes, don't assume he's a slack jawed Neanderthal who spends his free time coloring outside the lines and seeing how many baby carrots he can fit up his nostrils until his brain hurts, and he can no longer do long division. Maybe he's a normal guy who is just proud of his homeland and all that it represents.

Will Marcus is a sophomore from Austin, Texas. He is a Humor columnist for the Opinions section.

Crooked Wood
Politicized Sochi Games reflect poorly on Putin, Russian hosts

By NIKA SABASTEANSKI

The political undertones of the Olympic games occupy a spectrum, taking center stage in some years and a back seat in others. Famous examples of the former were 1936 when Nazi Germany used the event as a stage for their propaganda or 1972 when Black September took 11 Israeli athletes hostage, resulting in all of their deaths. The Olympics cannot be expected to be a two week pause in international hostilities where the olive wreath bestowed on the victors from ancient times is fully realized in all of its symbolism. Every two years, the course of current events is interrupted as a city — perhaps unknown before they were selected by the committee to host the games — scrambles to wash the dishes and make up the guest bedrooms before the world arrives. But in a flash, they are over, and the world picks up where it had left off with no competition to distract from the turmoil that was momentarily quieted.

The Olympics are a respite from the weariness of conflict, as hackneyed as that may seem. Even as protesters were murdered in Kiev, the peace talks failed in Syria, and the final straw broke in the Venezuelan crisis, the world's attention was instead on Jeremy Abbott, the 28-year-old figure skater from Colorado who plummeted to the ice from a failed quad and lay crumpled next to the wall. After 30 agonizing seconds, a global audience watched with baited breath as he raised one arm and dragged his body to an upright position, moving into the correct second of his program as a smile, seasoned with pain, emerged on his face. He skated with courage and the audience cheered him on, waving whatever flag was in their possession while they watched him finish 12th overall in the competition.

One could argue that the Olympics are a colossal waste of time and money. They raise the terrorist threat, dissuading some athletes and their families from attending, and leave the host city, if not built to sustain the industry and tourist trade, in economic decline. But I find something beautiful in it all. For a just a moment, the microcosm of the world represented in the Iceberg Skating Palace simply wanted this American man to stand up, and when he did, it wasn't an American victory. The love of sport, of pushing humans to their individual limits, both psychological and physical, is common ground for all the countries who cannot seem to agree on much more. For a moment, we are given a platform of relative neutrality to wave the Russian flag for an American skier or cheer on the Dutch speed skating team regardless of nationality because their skill and dominance astounds even the skaters they beat. The Olympics are as close as our flawed world ever comes to unity, and despite being an imperfect conglomeration of agendas and rivalries, they extract nobility from us all.

Even so, when we set all this Kum-ba-ba talk aside for a moment, it seems fair to note that the Sochi games were a notable deviation from this model. Vladimir Putin seemed to take the opportunity as an extended advertisement for his country and its policies, investing approximately \$51 billion in infrastructure and promotion. Sochi was initially viewed as an unlikely location for the winter games with its subtropical climate and proximity to Chechnya.

Putin hinged Russia's reputation on Sochi's success, beginning with an absurd torch relay that lasted for 40,000 miles into the world's deepest lake, the North Pole and outer space. The location, Putin's attitude and the

general trend toward injustice that has come into the media's foreground recently put the Sochi games at the middling to extreme end of the political spectrum. Many countries, including the United States, braced for a potential terror attack.

When the guests arrived in Sochi, the guest bedrooms were not clean, and the dishes were piled up. Hotels were unprepared to accommodate the masses, and the water from many of the faucets was tinged with yellow. Putin shook off these inconveniences as the demands of bourgeois Westerners unfamiliar with how the real world works but could only bite his tongue when the fifth Olympic ring did not appear. From the water to the asymmetrical rings, the audience was left with a bitter taste in their mouths. Although most of those examples could be written off as minor inconveniences, they did speak to the lack of foresight and superficiality with which the games were staged.

What emerged as the fatal flaw was the attitude that the Olympics were about Russia, ignoring the reason for the games: the athletes and the international community. And frankly, the Olympics didn't do much good for Russia either. The villages surrounding Sochi, such as Kazachy Brod, were deprived of a fresh water source, among other "Western luxuries". A resident was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying, "It's clearer to see the benefits for the government. . . It will be good if you tell Mr. Putin to pay attention to families with many children."

The construction of the Olympic village and the sporting complexes in Russia seemed like a bodybuilder whose muscle was temporary and not properly vascularized. Once the audience leaves, the city and the country most likely will not maintain their upward swing, and the atrophy will last longer than the excitement leading up to 2014. The prevalent beliefs regarding basic human rights prevented the innovation and growth that Russia claimed would come with hosting the Olympics. *The Washington Post* wrote, "President Vladimir Putin said Friday that gay people have nothing to fear in Russia as long as they leave children alone," which came on the coattails of the imprisonment and subsequent release — only to save face — of Greenpeace and Pussy Riot.

Obviously there is no perfect host country whose intentions are entirely pure and selfless and whose ideologies oppress no one. Yet even so, Sochi was an odd choice for host, not because of their lack of snow but because Putin — and by extension Russia, for however unfair that generalization may be one cannot seem to go without the other — fundamentally misunderstood the purpose of the Olympic games to such an extent that they could not even feign success in their wake.

Dostoevsky wrote, "Don't let us forget that the causes of human actions are usually immeasurably more complex and varied than our subsequent explanations of them." While this is certainly true, and Russia is an immensely complex country whose contributions to society and enthralling history certainly do merit examination, the standards for tolerance and progress in the world are rising. And since Putin opened the door by staking Russia's good name on the games, it is fair to say that the character of their nation has been simultaneously tarnished and exposed, the ultimate ripple in Narcissus' reflection.

Nika Sabasteanski is a sophomore majoring in Neuroscience. Her column in the Opinions Section, called "Crooked Wood," discusses philosophy, law and international politics.

PHOTO ESSAY

ICCA's

By: Leon
Santhakumar



THE B SECTION

News-Letter

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons, Etc. • Science & Technology • Sports

FEBRUARY 27, 2014

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YOUR WEEKEND FEB. 27- MARCH 2

Enjoy cherry blossoms this spring

By MELODY SWEN
Your Weekend Columnist

The infamous cherry trees that line the Tidal Basin and Jefferson Memorial in our nation's capital symbolize everything from the beginning of the busy tourist season in Washington, DC to the arrival of spring.

The 3,000 cherry trees were planted in 1912 as a gift of friendship to the People of the United States from the People of Japan. These trees line the area around the Jefferson Memorial on the Tidal Basin and can be seen around every major monument on the National Mall. The National Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual three-week, city-wide event that features international cultural performances and special events that showcase the history of DC, the cherry blossoms, cuisine, sports and marathons to celebrate the beginning of spring.

The cherry blossom trees around the Tidal Basin usually open between late March to mid-April. Watching the various stages of bloom is incredibly beautiful — from the beginning buds to the young green shoots, the

peach-colored blossoms and finally, the white snow shower of petals that cover the ground (peak bloom). The coveted period to view the blossoms, peak bloom, which is defined at the point when 70 percent of the blossoms are open, lasts around three to four days.

Predicting when peak bloom will occur is tricky. The National Park Service arborists are responsible for updating the forecast dates. However, with the recent new MARC train schedule that runs on weekends, it's even easier to make the commute to DC to catch every stage of the cherry blossoms. If you're not much of a nature appreciator, spring is still the best time to view the monuments and various free exhibits. There are also special activities around cherry blossom season. These include:

1. Paddle Boating — view the Jefferson Memorial and Japanese Cherry Trees from the water.

2. Cherry Blossom Cruises — boat cruises from the water where you can survey the monuments and trees.

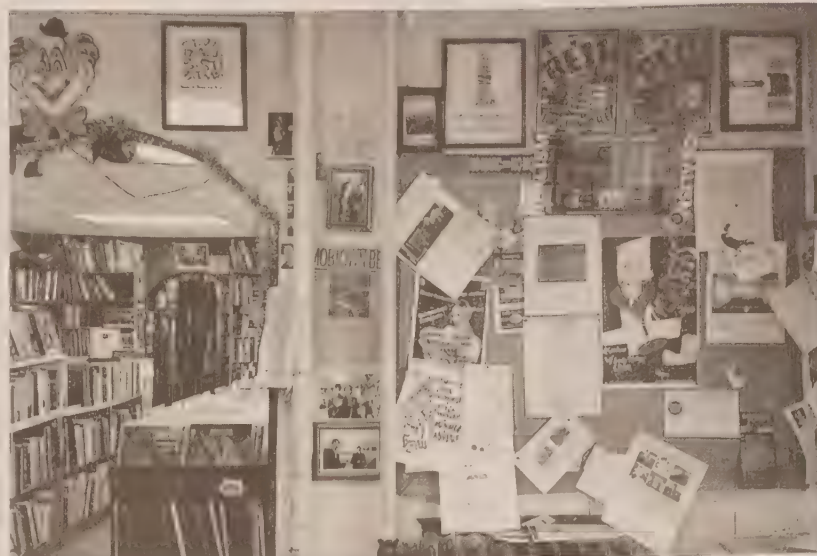
3. Bike the Sites Tour — a two-hour ride designed

for the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Sites include Potomac Park and the Jefferson Memorial.

4. The Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run — an annual 10-mile/16-km road race, which began as a training run for those competing in the Boston marathon. It has grown into a local race for those of all skill levels. It is an international scene, nevertheless, with athletes from all over the world.

After a full day of walking around, I suggest moseying on down to the trendy Penn Quarter, a lively district with exotic, albeit expensive restaurants. I recommend SEI — a Japanese fusion sushi bar with unique sushi creations. Classy/night attire is recommended. And of course, no night out is complete without Pitango Gelato on 7th Street, located conveniently across the street from SEI.

One of my favorite things about Baltimore is its proximity to big cities and the ease of travel. The Cherry Blossom Festival is one of the best times to visit all that our capital has to offer. I know that I'll be returning again every spring!



A cluttered corkboard hangs near the entrance of Normal's Books & Records and advertises local art events.

The City That Reads (Among Other Things)

By MONA JIA
Your Weekend Columnist

Last semester, I worked my way slowly through *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. I bought it the day it hit the shelves mostly because of the hype, if I'm being honest. It took me several months to read, but I enjoyed every minute of it. Anyone who has loved a book will know what I mean when I say I felt somewhat empty afterwards. I missed having something handy to fill awkward slices of time between classes, but nothing new in the Bestsellers section tempted me.

Located not far from campus around E 31st and Greenmount Ave., Normal's Books & Records offers a wide collection of used books, CDs, vinyl records and tapes in a cozy setting. I visited on a Sunday afternoon with a \$10 bill in my pocket and the hope that I'd get lucky with a neat find.

Big bookstores and libraries have always held a church-like quality for me with their high ceilings and cultured character. Normal's atmosphere — by comparison — has a warm feel, and the serious silence is interrupted periodically by the sound of conversa-

tion or boot soles shuffling over hardwood floors.

The walls are covered, floor to ceiling, with books. Normal's offerings include airport crime novels, Buddhist philosophy, celebrity biographies and dozens more quirky niche genres. There's something for everyone, trite as that sounds.

I settled on a copy of *The False Friend* by Myla Goldberg. At \$6, it cost a fraction of what I might have paid for it elsewhere.

Before leaving, I paused to admire the densely populated corkboard near the front of the entrance. Flyers for local bands, business cards and event posters vied for attention.

In addition to used books, Normal's carries a lot of work from local writers and literary magazines and has its own performance venue. The Red Room is run by a volunteer collective and features experimental acts.

A few weeks later I tried out another bookstore, Atomic Books near W 36th St. and Falls Rd.

I was immediately struck by the space's bright, colorful appearance. Atomic Books' eclectic selection of books, comics, zines, magazines, novelty items and art offers hours of potential exploration. There's a focus

on alternative and underground works, but as a non-expert on all things indie I found the store and its staff to be quite accessible.

Like Normal's, Atomic Books also does used books, but they are next door at Celebrated Summer Records. Celebrated Summer is owned separately and focuses on hardcore and punk music but also sells used books for their neighbor. I chatted with owner Tony Pence while he rang up my purchase. We bonded briefly over our shared appreciation of punk bands, and I asked Pence for his recommendations.

All of the independent bookstores I visited seem to double as community hubs for culture. Between the in-house bar, the book signings and release parties and a monthly book club (March's selection: *Dharma Bums* by Jack Kerouac), I wondered how Atomic Books has the time to actually sell books.

My original quest was humble enough: I wanted something to read after the end of a long affair with a good book. What I found fulfilled that and more; I left Hampden with the distinct impression that there was a lot left to explore, things that I had missed.



COURTESY OF JUSTGRIMES VIA FLICKR

Pictured above is one of approximately 30,000 cherry blossoms that are planted all throughout the city.

Noteworthy Events



NEONTOMMY.COM

The *Book of Mormon* recently ran at the Pantages Theater in L.A.

The Book of Mormon

1 p.m., 2 p.m., 6:30 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 26 — Sun. Mar. 9

Hippodrome Theatre

Successful Broadway show, *The Book of Mormon* has finally arrived in Baltimore and will play for a little less than two weeks. The musical is a religious satire written by Trey Parker, Matt Stone and Robert Lopez. Parker and Stone are best known as the writers of *South Park*, and Lopez is known for another award-winning Broadway musical, *Avenue Q*. *The Book of Mormon* tells the tale of two young Mormon missionaries sent to a remote African village, ruled by a violent warlord who threatens the native people. Available online, tickets range from \$30-\$180 and are selling fast.

The 5th Annual B'more Healthy Expo

10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Sat. Mar. 1

Baltimore Convention Center

The biggest health and wellness event of the year is back for a fifth year at the Baltimore Convention Center this Saturday. The B'more Healthy Expo offers health screenings, information, workouts, family activities, interactive exhibits, three stages for live entertainment, safety and injury prevention, healthy home displays, a pet health pavilion and much more. For the first time, the event will be covered by three major Baltimore TV stations. Come learn more about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and environment at the Healthy Expo!



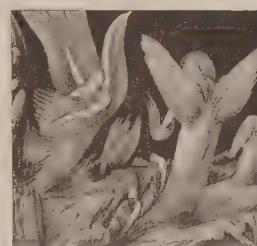
BMOREHEALTHYEXPO.COM

Supreme Bio-Coffee will be one of many vendors at the health event.



MELISSA ROSE VIA FLICKR

Singer Robin Thicke performs (left); Artwork by Donald Pass (right).



OUTSIDERART.CO.UK



FOCKA VIA FLICKR

Demi Lovato performs (left); Singer Michael Bolton performs (right).



ALTERNATE VIA FLICKR

Calendar

2/27 Robin Thicke (Patriot Center)

2/28 Donald Pass: The Hope We Seek (American Visionary Art Museum)

Eddie Griffin (Magooby's Joke House)

Monster Jam (Baltimore Arena)

3/1 Hopkins Symphony Orchestra Symphonic Concert (Shriver Hall)

13th Annual Canton Irish Stroll (Various Canton Locations)

3/2 Demi Lovato (Patriot Center)

Michael Bolton (Music Center at Strathmore)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Loyal fans flock to Young the Giant show

By HUGO UVEGI
For The News-Letter

Anticipation rose as fans aged 14 to 40 crowded into Rams Head Live for Young the Giant's sold out Tuesday night performance.

Having staked their places in the crowd, barely a person moved in the lull between the California groove of the opening act, Cayucas, and the upbeat, indie-rock feel of the main attraction. Stage-hands and security shuffled quickly across the stage, preparing Young the Giant's instrumental set-up, and then it happened — the stage emptied, "Slow Drive" came on, and the band appeared from the abyss that is backstage to a sea of screaming fans.

Following with "Anagram" and "It's About Time," the next two songs off its sophomore album, *Mind Over Matter*, Young the Giant already had the audience hooked. Expecting to hear more of the new album, fans were pleasantly surprised by a stream of old favorites, including "Apartment" and "Strings," which both beautifully exhibited the strong yet creamy voice of lead singer Sameer Gadhia. It should also be noted that Gadhia as well as the rest of the band members never missed an opportunity to allow their own musical sound to flow through their bodies, dancing to the music during and in between each vocal line.

As Young the Giant continued to play a blend of songs from both of its albums, it became quickly

apparent to all that the sold out show was not simply filled with teens looking for a fun Tuesday night, but that all in attendance were true, devoted fans, singing along with almost every song.

Even the band could feel the audience's love. After a quick shout out to Baltimore and an exclamation of his love for *The Wire*, Sameer thanked the crowd.

"We're well into our tour now... we've been gone from home for a while... every time we see an audience that gives a shit [it makes it worth it.] So thank you for that," he said.

This came after two other interactions with the audience, one involving a selfie taken by Sameer on a cell phone thrown onto the stage and another in which he wore a fan's fedora — also thrown onto the stage — for most of a song. As much as their fans love them and enjoy their music, Young the Giant made it clear that they wholeheartedly reciprocated that feeling of love.

Throughout the show, each member of Young the Giant displayed his individual, creative musical abilities, whether it be ending "Paralysis" with an a cappella harmony between Sameer and drummer François Comtois, who not only played some heavy drum beats but also sang backup vocals along with guitarist Eric Cannata on many songs, or having bassist Payam Doostzadeh switch to synths for some of the songs. Finishing up their

SEE RAMSHEAD, PAGE B5

Hopkins hosts intercollegiate a cappella competition

By AUBREY ALMANZA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The 2014 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella tournament is in full swing. As of Feb. 22, two additional Mid-Atlantic groups were selected to join fellow quarterfinal winners at the March 15 semifinals in Nashville. Although Vocal Point and Faux Paz managed to outshine the competition assembled in Shriver Hall, the seven contending groups did not give up the titles without a fight.

Varsity Vocals proudly celebrates its 18th season presenting student a cappella competitions, an exciting group promotion and production. In addition to being featured on Varsity Vocals' "Best of College A Cappella" album, competing groups hope to perform at New York City's Town Hall as international finalists.

With such exceptional

opportunities at stake, Shriver Hall's energy was naturally electric. Ticket lines stretched outside, family and friends streamed into every row of seats and groups could be heard warming up off-stage. The building was alive as attendees found

ning's hosts, Andy Weld and Pauline Cronin. After clarifying that the evening's lineup had been randomly ordered and each set was allotted only 12 minutes, the music finally ensued.

Hopkins' favorite comedy a cappella troop per-

Mental Notes frequented the stage throughout the competition with beef-jerky sketches and opinionated, original songs.

In addition to complaining about the permanence of Taylor Swift's reign and dreadful final exams, The Mental Notes

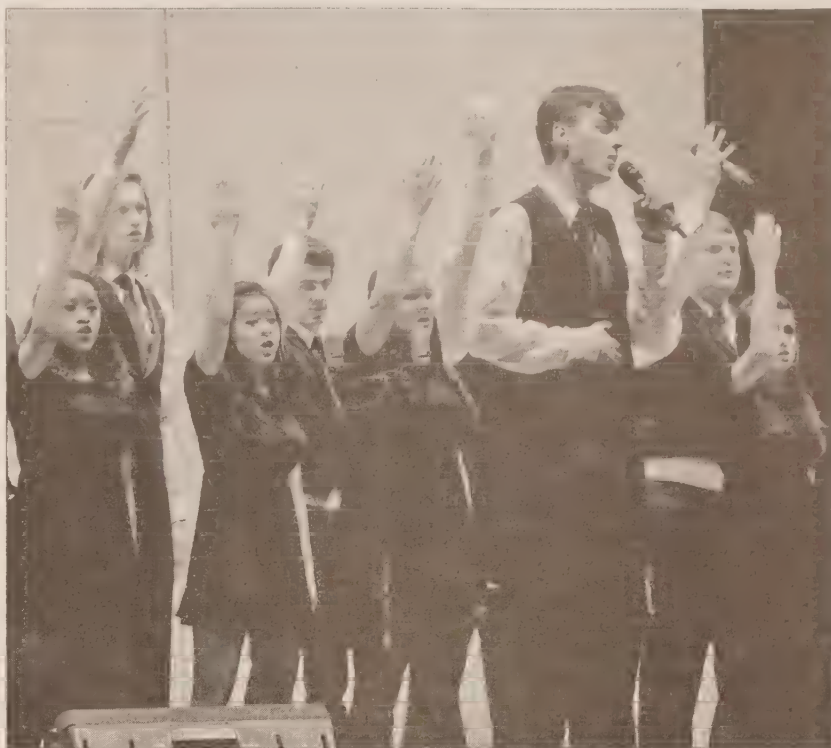
treated the audience with renditions of B.O.B.'s "Magic" and Macklemore's "And We Danced." The group generously entertained the restless crowd while final scores were tallied.

The competition truly began as NINE gave their first public performance. The young Hopkins-based group

formed last October and

comprises nine Octopodes members. Peter Yang soloed first with an arrangement of Olly Murs' "Army of Two." Sophomore Nicole Abdo gave a powerful rendition of "Over the Love" by Florence and the

SEE ICCA, PAGE B5



Leon Santhakumar/Photography Editor Saturday night featured the Varsity Vocals production of one Mid-Atlantic quarterfinals a cappella competition.

their places and excitedly awaited the memorable show.

Event producer Lindsay Howerton-Hastings introduced the quarterfinals' dynamics before passing off the spotlight to the eve-

formed first. Repeating the words "your mom," The Mental Notes modernized a conglomeration of classic pieces including Beethoven's "Für Elise." Clad in their signature Hawaiian button-ups, The

BSO hosts "Science Fiction Spectacular"

By CONOR HAMMONDS
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presented a musical event that defied its normal bounds of well-known classical pieces and traditional Pops programs. The "Sci-Fi Spectacular!" proved to be one of the Orchestra's most well-attended concerts of the season so far and rewarded audiences with the Orchestra's most impressive musicianship of the year.

The opening piece of the concert was none other than John Williams' world-famous *Star Wars* "Main Titles." Jack Everly, the BSO's Principal Pops

Conductor, bounded onstage and led the orchestra in a performance of the "Titles" that was full of energy, enthusiasm and technical precision. The brass section, in particular, was deservedly showcased in the heroic nature that is typical of *Star Wars* music.

Maestro Everly, who is also Principal Pops Conductor with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic Orchestra and National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa), told audiences that the original *Star Wars* music had been recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra almost 40 years ago. He added, though,

that a better performance of the "Main Titles" had never been heard, which was met with applause of agreement from the audience.

Following sensational performances of various soundtracks from the sci-fi genre, including *Superman*, *Somewhere in Time* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, the lights in the hall went out — ominous music accompanied a show of sickly green lights as a dark figure walked onstage.

Raucous applause erupted as the spotlight fell upon a slight man with a wide grin and the famous "Live long and prosper" peace sign raised high — George Takei of *Star Trek* was in the house. Mr. Takei, known for playing Mr. Sulu on the original *Star Trek* television program, as well as many consecutive *Star Trek* films, proceeded to entertain the audience with anecdotes about the production and cast of the original series. The orchestra then began what every "Trek-ker" in the audience was waiting for — the ever-famous theme music for the *Star Trek* show. Mr. Takei provided the narration ("Space, the final frontier...") while Kristen Plumley, soprano, performed the theme's melody.

After intermission, the Orchestra went on to perform themes from 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and 2009's *Star Trek*. The highlight of the second half came unexpectedly, in Bernard Herrmann's less famous score of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. The pulsing music, though less thematic than other pieces in the program, was brought to life by Maestro Everly and the Orchestra. Mr. Takei returned halfway through for a performance of a speech from the film originally spoken by Mi-

chael Rennie.

"The universe grows smaller every day, and the threat of aggression by any group, anywhere, can no longer be tolerated," Takei said.

The Day the Earth Stood Still was released in 1951 during the Cold War, so it is clear what the speech is referring to. However, the conviction and urging tone with which Mr. Takei spoke was chilling and brought new life to the speech, expressing sadness at a world in which violence against "different" people is commonplace.

The "Spectacular" ended on a thrilling note, with an extraordinary rendition of John Williams' "Duel of the Fates" and "End Title," both from *Star Wars*. The Sci-Fi-Ettes vocal ensemble was showcased here and brought a very appropriate other-worldly quality to the music. Maestro Everly's enthusiasm for the sci-fi genre was very apparent especially in the couple of times that he actually became airborne himself, jumping up off the conductor's podium in moments of great musical climax.

Though the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra plays with great musicality and technique in every concert, and its performance in the "Sci-Fi Spectacular" was especially jaw-dropping. Accompanied by the laser-light show in the hall, Maestro Everly and the Orchestra transported audiences to another place — a galaxy far, far away. In a world where orchestral music is becoming less popular, performances like these make listeners remember the real power that music has to carry them away from the mundaneness of everyday life to an intangible place that thrills, entertains and fuels the soul.



COURTESY OF HUGO UVEGI

Young the Giant shows the crowd how to rock out on a Tuesday night,

Morning Phase differs from preceding Beck albums

By JOHN SWEENEY
Staff Writer

Released on Feb. 25 by Capitol Records, Beck's 12th album, *Morning Phase*, marks not just his first proper record since 2008's *Modern Guilt*, but also the dawn of a new day for the alternative rock great and the restoration of faith in the art of the album.

While the specific details are blurry, Beck's delay in releasing a full length album — excluding 2012's *Song Reader*, which featured sheet music of 20 new songs for fans to create themselves — was caused by a back injury that left him unable to dance, sing and play the guitar. However, that injury did not stop him from releasing several singles over the past year and a half, pieces of an unfinished project that Beck has shelved for the time being.

Beck is known for his eclectic style and genre-

jumping. His 1994 album, *One Foot in the Grave*, was a testament to lo-fi folk, drawing influence from his days participating in

and instrumentation. Additionally, 1999's *Midnite Vultures* showed a flare of big-band funk.

However, *Morning*

and universally acclaimed masterpiece, *Sea Change*.

The comparison between the two albums is impossible to escape. A press release by Beck and early reviews labeled *Morning Phase* as an uplifting companion piece to the solemn *Sea Change*. In fact, the same people brought the two records to life. Enlisted for recording were many of the artists that worked on *Sea Change*, including long-time session and touring-musician Justin Meldal-Johnsen as well as Beck's own father, David Campbell, who provided string arrangements.

That being said, the two albums certainly have their differences. While both records are deeply intimate in their frequent flashes of raw emotion, *Sea Change* feels more like a journal entry from a post-breakup romantic. In contrast, *Morning Phase*, now 43, due to its similarities to his 2002 album



HITFIX.COM

Beck's new album, *Morning Phase*, showcases Beck's huge talent.

the anti-folk movement. Meanwhile, his widely-acclaimed 1996 album, *Ödelay*, proved an eccentric whirlwind of samples

Phase sees both a return to form as well as a leap forward for Beck Hansen, now 43, due to its similarities to his 2002 album

SEE BECK, PAGE B4

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Despicable Me 2 fails to meet predecessor's standards

If you've been following my reviews, you know my stance on sequels very well. For the record, I am not always against sequels. Sequels are perfectly valid as films so long as they make sure to meet certain criteria. First, they must stay true to the spirit of the original film, recognizing what made the prequel great and what made it appeal to people. Second, it must be sure to bring fresh material to the table so as to remain a strong film on its own. It's a delicate balance, and even slight variations potentially skew the entire project.

Films like *Despicable Me 2*, Universal's sequel to the 2010 animated comedy *Despicable Me*, upset me so much because it shows no reverence for either of these two necessities. It alters the tone and setup to the film to such a degree that it might as well be a completely different film; and it rehashes so many of the prequel's jokes and material, so the sequel offers nothing fresh itself.

Despicable Me 2 opens with the mysterious theft of a laboratory from the arctic, which allegedly contains an incredibly volatile experimental chemical weapon which can mutate living organisms into dangerous, rabid beasts. In a desperate move, the Anti-Villain League contacts former villain Gru, the protagonist of the first film and voiced by Steve Carell, requesting that he use his past experience as a supervillain to help them track down the stolen lab and chemical. Gru teams up with secret agent Lucy Wilde (Kristen Wiig), and together the pair begin investigating the odd case; their zany misadventures include breaking into Mexican restaurants, wrestling with purple minion monsters and uncovering a conspiracy laden with history and betrayal. What's more, matters become more complicated as Gru begins falling in love with Lucy, setting the stage for even more awkward, over-the-top antics.

All of this sounds great for the type of film this is, at least in theory. The primary issue with the plot is that it takes an enormous step backwards from the characters, atmosphere and plot elements of the first *Despicable Me*. Make no mistake, while the cast remains the same between the two films, this is a sequel in name only.

For a film named *Despicable Me 2*, there really isn't very much despicable about the protagonist. Gru is meant to be an abrasive, standoffish, plotting, dastardly fellow, albeit with a soft spot for his three adopted daughters. To them, he is a villain with a heart of gold. This setup allows Universal to play around

non-factors. This is upsetting because Miranda Cosgrove and Russell Brand both give very strong performances in their respective roles, but neither of them actually do much in the film.

The animation, as one would expect from Universal, is top notch. Everything is handled by

animated work. The tone of the film is much more slapstick, and the characters move in such a way as to match it: somewhat stiff but capable of wide ranges of motion. While nothing groundbreaking, the animation is certainly passable and is among the better work Universal has done.

In all, the film just doesn't offer enough to make itself worth a watch. It takes many serious steps back from what made the original so much fun to watch and relies on slapstick to replace the presence of a meaningful plot. Couple that with the fact that many plot points are underdeveloped, the cast isn't given enough to do, and the fact that the film's gritty edge has been worn away, and what you get is a sequel that is in every way inferior. It is not the first to go down this path, nor will it be the last, but it must be recognized

for what it is: overly-safe, lukewarm and completely devoid of any innovation.

Universal, next time you make a *Despicable Me* film, please, make it despicable.

Overall rating: 2/5



COURTESY OF TOMHARDY09 VIA FANPOPCOM
The goofy villain, Gru, played by Steve Carell, makes a comeback in *Despicable Me 2*.

with the hero-villain formula, taking a character who is evil at his core and still making him inherently good. Furthermore, Gru is constantly juxtaposed against characters, such as his adopted daughters Margo, Edith and Agnes. This allows his character to grow and come to mesh with fundamentally good people, despite his naturally evil disposition. It is clever, charming and allows the character to grow in believable and compelling ways.

However, for that sequel, Universal decided to take Gru's soft side and amp it up to 11, removing everything that made the first one so interesting to watch: It took a character who is meant to be, at best, an anti-hero and converted him into a full-on hero of justice. This artistic move takes all of the edge off of the previous film, making the subsequent one feel extremely "safe"

by comparison. Gru, despite taking a vast amount of the screen time, barely undergoes any character growth at all. His investigations largely just slapstick with little compelling background, and his love story with Lucy is so bland and uninteresting that it may as well not be in the film at all.

As for the rest of the cast, they may as well not be in the film either; everyone besides Gru, Lucy and a few newly introduced characters are pushed so far into the background that they're essentially

the same animation team from the first film, and as such, maintains its quality. Granted, this is a Universal film. Audiences shouldn't expect anything even close to the level of Pixar or even some of Disney's more recent

Flashframe
Film Reviews

Tim Freborg



COURTESY OF DKFANI VIA FANPOPCOM
The lovable, crazy minions are back for the sequel to *Despicable Me*.

Beck releases a new
standout album

BECK, FROM B3
over mournful introspection.

Beck has described some of the new songs found on *Morning Phase* as "California music" and elaborated on the album's influences.

"I'm hearing the Byrds, Crosby Stills and Nash, Gram Parsons, Neil Young — the bigger idea of what that sound is to me," he said.

The album's opening track, "Cycle," a short instrumental and orchestral piece, feels like a sunrise to meet the record's first proper song, "Morning," which sounds like a sister piece to Beck's 2002 single, "Golden Age."

"Heart as a Drum," an up-tempo testament to Beck's liveliness even in an acoustic setting, keeps the pulse of the album beating onward.

First single "Blue Moon" shows Beck admitting that there is room to move forward but does so without looking behind him.

"I'm so tired of being alone," he confesses.

Even so, the beautiful crooning of the chorus feels more like nostalgia than a cry for help.

The themes of longing and internal turmoil that define *Sea Change*, how-

ever, float to the surface on "Wave," a desolate track that features Beck sans-guitar and backed by ebbs and flows of strings.

"Isolation, isolation," Beck wails towards the end of the song.

It is a reminder that even a ray of sunlight does not mean the end of the storm.

Tracks like "Unforgiven," "Blackbird Chain" and "Country Down" most strongly resemble the "California music" that Beck chose to characterize *Morning Phase*; album closer "Waking Light" is an epic climax to end what *The Daily Beast* has labeled as possibly "the last great singer-songwriter album" of all time.

Beck has, once again, proven himself perhaps the most versatile musician in modern music; already receiving immense critical acclaim, *Morning Phase* promises to please Beck fans and give them what they have been waiting long and patiently for.

A second, more electric Beck album is tentatively scheduled for release later this year. High-profile collaborators such as Pharrell are said to be on board.

Catch Beck at this year's Firefly Festival, which will take place June 19-22 in Dover, Del.

Philomena contends for multiple Oscars

Film based on true story portrays religious and maternal themes

By DAVID BERENATO
For The News-Letter

In a year with several serious Best Picture contenders at the Oscars, it is important to remember that sometimes the Academy has cast aside films that are still well worth seeing. This year's version of 2012's *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (or *Amour* since that's about an old European lady) is Stephen Frears' *Philomena*. It tells the heartbreaking, true story of Philomena Lee, played by Dame Judi Dench, as she searches for the son whom was taken away from her 50 years ago.

The film is as touching as it is humorous. It tells the story of the power of forgiveness over resentment in a way that feels genuine and is not pedantic. Judi Dench is moving as she disappears into the naïve and quirky Philomena Lee, opposite Steve Coogan's straight man reporter, Martin Sixsmith.

Philomena is shown in the first scene holding a black and white picture of a young boy as she announces to her daughter that "today is his 50th birthday." Flashbacks show that Philomena had a son, Anthony, 50 years ago, but the nuns who housed her as a teenage mother took him away from her. Philomena's daughter quickly finds recently fired reporter Martin Sixsmith, and the promise of exposing corruption in the Catholic Church in Ireland persuades him to write his first human interest piece.

The duo provide most of the comedy of the film as vast differences in lifestyle and sensibilities make watching them travel together as enjoyable as if one was accompanying them. In one scene, the characters take a ride on a cart through the airport, and Philomena describes a corny romance novel she just finished in so much detail that it takes several minutes to finish. But her

excitement for conversation and cliché love stories is a testament to how simple it is to make *Philomena* happy. She truly adores sharing her experience of reading what she considers to be a wonderful love story.

The film also has a strong religious subplot with Sixsmith as the bitter atheist and Philomena as the aged teenage mother who hid her secret for fear of revealing her sin for 50 years. In the beginning, it is all too easy to side with Sixsmith as flashbacks reveal that Philomena's Catholic education led her to have no idea that sex caused pregnancy. The nuns chastise her for her ignorance, and she must work at the convent for four years to pay them off for housing her and delivering the baby. But the nuns give the baby up for adoption without Philomena's consent, and every time she visits them many years later they are conspicuously polite but unhelpful.

But everything gets turned on its head after when the whereabouts of Anthony Lee are discovered about halfway through the film. Philomena becomes a powerhouse of strength and wisdom, and her cordial and admiring relationship with Sixsmith turns tense and



RAILROADSSQUARECINEMA.COM
Philomena is an emotional journey that chronicles the life and struggles of an aged teen mother.

corrupted.

What the film manages to do with a true story about sin and guilt is powerfully inspiring as it does not leave the audience with a decision to make about both Philomena and the church's actions. Philomena makes an important point early on in the film that she does not regret having sex with a boy she met at a fair. She actually loved the experience, but she knew that something that felt that good had to be a sin. Her logic appears to be a result of brainwashing to Sixsmith. He rolls his eyes, addressing the fact that her guilt is caused by no more than phony teaching by a group of corrupt nuns. Philomena does not care what Sixsmith has to say about religion, and the end proves that she is perfectly capable of thinking and acting of her own accord.

The film is nominated for four Oscars: Best

Picture, Best Actress for Judi Dench, Best Original Score and Best Adapted Screenplay. While it is not a strong contender for any of the awards, it is definitely deserving of the nominations.

What is especially interesting is that out of the nine Best Picture nominees, six are based on true stories: *Philomena*, *12 Years a Slave*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *Captain Phillips*, *American Hustle* and *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Judi Dench is among the nine out of 20 actors nominated for Oscars for playing real people or characters based on real people. This speaks to a larger trend of independent film, which favors compelling true stories over the massive high-concept films of the summer tentpoles. In every sense, *Philomena* is a wonderful, easy to handle and thought-provoking film — one that any viewer could happily take his or her grandmother to.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Loyal fans flock to Young the Giant show

RAMSHEAD, FROM B3

pre-encore set with fan-favorite "Cough Syrup" and "Crystallized" off its new album, Young the Giant walked off the stage with the crowd jumping, screaming, clapping and chanting for more. Everyone expected an encore, but their method of delivery was novel — leading off with a solo beginning to "Camera" by Sameer on keyboard and vocals. The rest of the band slowly joined in, in time with the air of the song. With a "Thank you for bringing us back home," the band followed with a strong rendition of their second album's title song, "Mind Over Matter."

"This is actually our last song," Sameer then casually admitted.

As if with one brain, the audience knew exactly what was still missing: "My Body."



COURTESY OF HUGO UVEGI

Young the Giant put on a spellbinding performance to a sold out crowd.

Urging the entire crowd to get up and move (as if they needed the motivation), almost the entire band started jumping, and the crowd went right along with them. Arms in the air, the audience sang along with every word of that final song, and by the end of it, Sameer was so excited that he jumped off the stage, reaching his mic into the audience. As if he had just introduced a giant magnet, the entire room shifted forward. If not for the quick hands of security, Sameer would have been pulled into the audience by that very same power.

Ending the concert on such an energetic note left the crowd once again craving more, and as people slowly exited the venue, they were certainly left with an excitement of what Young the Giant has in store for the future.

ICCA assembles mid-Atlantic performers

ICCA, FROM B3

Machine. Vocalist Corbyn Yhap undoubtedly stood out most in NINE's set, and would have benefited the group by singing more than Bastille's mere opening of "Flaws." Recurrent Octopodes soloist Melissa Jordano closed NINE's performance with "Take Me Home" by Cash Cash.

University of Maryland's Faux Paz raised the bar even higher with three unbelievable deliveries. Beginning with Macklemore's "Can't Hold Us," Faux Paz wowed with well-synched choreography and balanced harmonies. With her impassioned cover of Bon Iver's "Flaws," junior Sarah Sexton moved audiences and secured the award for Outstanding Soloist. Francesca Spano's unique sound seamlessly captured Ellie Goulding's "Figure 8." With strong choreography and diverse arrangements, Faux Paz indisputably deserves to move on to the semifinals as second place winners.

Disagreeing with their cleverly suggestive name, Interchorus chose three songs about lost love and moving on. The St. Mary's natives performed current radio hits "Pompeii" by Bastille and Miley Cyrus' "Wrecking Ball." Aura Payne's soulful cover of "Burn" by Usher was the highlight of Interchorus' stage time, also contending for the Outstanding Soloist award.

A large fanbase accom-

panied University of Delaware's The MelUDEes. After opening with a sultry performance of "Undertow" by Sara Bareilles, The MelUDEes really shined with their Civil Wars "Poison and Wine" duet. The chemistry between the two leads was believable and their voic-

Valen Gordon confidently delivered Cassie's 2006 hit "Me & U" and then transitioned to "Swimming Pools" by Kendrick Lamar. The upbeat tempo dramatically slowed with Will DeMore's rendition of "Sun & Moon" by Above & Beyond. Still, the performers maintained rhythm and

recital of John Legend's "This Time." The powerhouse singer beautifully blended with Rachel Xian and held a final note that triggered a crowd uproar. The group naturally transitioned into Xian's cover of "Elastic Heart" by Sia. The Vocal Chords' new frontwoman continues to expand her range with each performance.

Vocal Point, the quarterfinal champions, walked onto the stage meaning business. The disciplined band step danced with ultimate precision and won Outstanding Choreography for their entire set. The black and gold group blew attendees away with their "Dark Side" performance, which earned them yet another award for Outstanding Arrangement. By the end of Fall Out Boy's "My Songs Know What You Did In The Dark" cover, it was clear that Vocal Point would be heading



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

A cappella groups from various Maryland and Delaware universities competed in Shriver Hall.

es smoothly harmonized. Unfortunately, this duet was so tremendous that the following MelUDEes couple disappointed. The second pair of voices clashed, and attempting to mix four Maroon 5 songs proved rather cacophonous.

A brief performance hiatus evidently enhanced PandemoniUM's stage presence for the University of Maryland, College Park students absolutely owned the stage. The sassy group chose two risqué pieces to open their set. Sophomore

snagged Outstanding Percussion thanks to senior Alex Moss.

The Vocal Chords (a Hopkins favorite) took the stage after South-Asian a cappella team, Anokha. The suspenders and bow-tie wearing group began with Nick Uebele and Alexia Huggins' take on "What Now" by Rihanna. Uebele poured himself into the bridge as fellow group members entertained with powerful background choreo. Next, senior Rudy Fernandez gave an absolutely chilling

to Vanderbilt for semifinals.

To close the show, University of Maryland's DaCadence put on a theatrical set including songs Lincoln Park's "Numb," "Demons" by Imagine Dragons and "She Will Be Loved" by Maroon 5.

All nine groups were worthy title candidates, but only Faux Paz and Vocal Point prevailed. The Hopkins community wishes both groups future success and will be rooting for our Mid-Atlantic neighbors as they compete in Tennessee.

Japanese melodrama captures viewers

By **SHERRY KIM**
For *The News-Letter*

What would you do if one day, you discovered that your son was not your biological son? This is the storyline of the recent Japanese melodrama, *Like Father Like Son*, released in U.S. theaters in January 2014. The movie has a runtime of 121 minutes and was first released in France during the Cannes Film Festival in May 2013.

In *Like Father Like Son*, director Hirokazu Kore-eda explores the concept of parental and filial love, expressed in a very subtle way, similar to the manner of Japanese culture itself.

Upon discovering that their six-year-old son, Keita (Keita Ninomiya), is not their biological son due to a mix-up at the hospital, parents Ryota (Masaharu Fukuyama) and Midori (Machiko Ono) embark on an emotional journey, trying to figure out how to handle the situation.

The issue is further complicated when Ryota and Midori discover that the family of their biological son, Ryusei (Shogen Hwang) is, they believe, of a completely different caliber than they are. Whereas they are an affluent family living an exceedingly comfortable lifestyle, the Saiki family is struggling to make ends meet and seen as being backwards, country bumpkins.

Do they switch children? Do they keep their original child? How important are bloodlines? What values do they hold dear, as parents?

The situation is fraught with complications, especially as the audience learns more about Ryota's own painful family history.

Although the plot seems a little cliché and overdramatic, the direction and cinematography certainly make up for it.

It was a very clever decision on director Hirokazu's part to focus on Ryota, a seemingly cold and indifferent man. Told through very subtle dialogue and scenes, viewers see the internal

ily. As Midori's thoughts grow darker and darker, she explores the possibility of running away with Keita, leaving everyone, including her husband, behind. As her thoughts grow darker, so does the screen, until at last, it is completely black.

The scene is captured very well and is one of the scenes showing a more obvious metaphor, which is nice in contrast to the subtle dialogue and content throughout the rest of the movie.

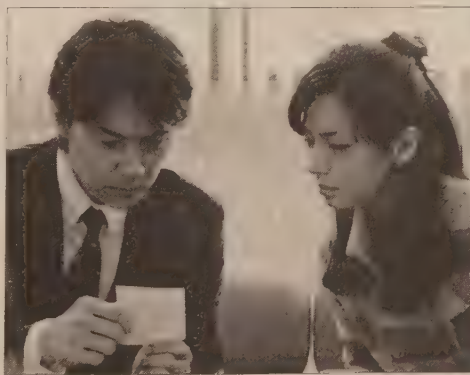
However, a major drawback of the film is that some of the content and internal struggles that the parents face are not as readily accessible to viewers without much knowledge or experience of Japanese culture. For example, without being Japanese, it is difficult to

fully comprehend the extent of the struggle Ryota faces while trying to decide the importance of bloodlines.

Although Hirokazu tries his best to make the issues inherent in the movie accessible to all viewers, some depth in meaning of the movie is lost without a complete understanding of Japanese culture.

Nonetheless, as winner of the Jury Prize at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival, *Like Father Like Son* is a beautifully captured movie, filled to the brim with artistic shots and imagery.

It is currently playing at The Charles Theatre in Baltimore and is definitely worth taking the time to go and experience on screen.



ARTSATL.COM

Like Father Like Son tells the tale of a couple's long lost son.

struggles that he faced growing up and how that manifested in his controlling and seemingly frigid exterior. The movie was filled with very controlling imagery to parallel Ryota's character, and it had a very strong impact on viewers.

The cinematography was easily the best feature of the movie. It was clear that every single shot was taken in great detail and consideration, and the resulting effect was fantastic. Every shot was beautiful and expressed a myriad of emotions analogous to the movie content itself.

One particularly beautiful scene that stood out was of Midori and Keita on a train riding back home after visiting the Saiki fam-

Jed Gaylin,
Music Director & Conductor



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CARTOONS, ETC.

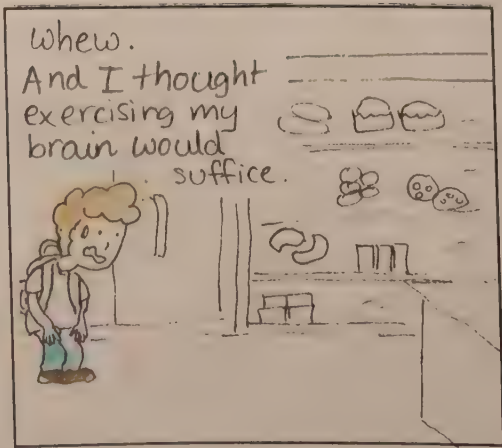
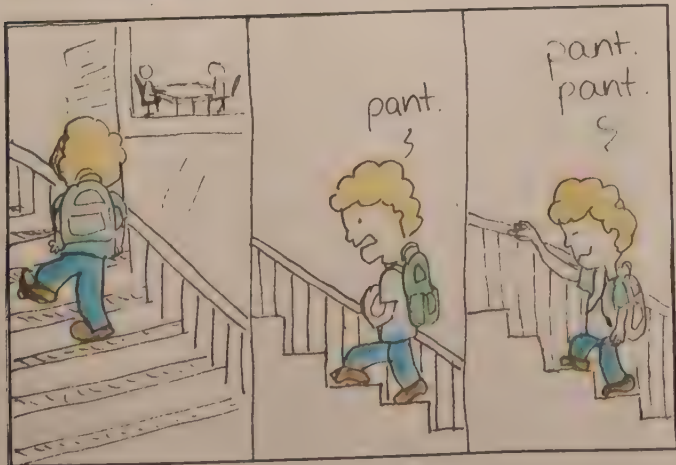
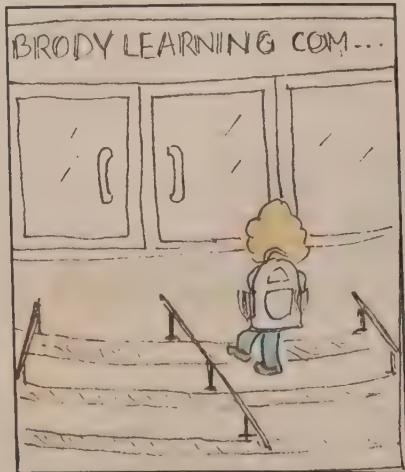
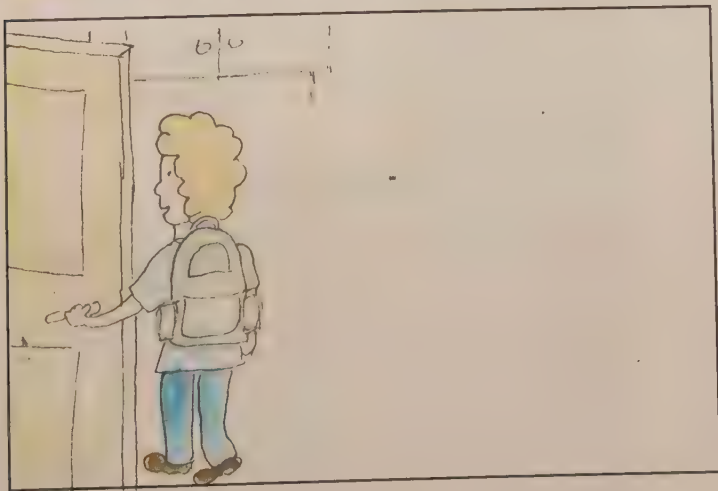
By Seola

Very Large Green Circle



Blue Jay Chronicles

By Sachi



New crossword in next week's issue!

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Viviparity may have evolved from land species

By MELANIE LEVINE
Managing Editor

A fossil of three babies discovered in central China has shed light on the origins of live birth. Against the prevailing option, this fossil suggests that live birth may have evolved

on land rather than in the sea. A team lead by Dr. Ryosuke Motani from the University of California, Davis, recently published this finding in a *Plos One* paper.

The chaohusaurus specimen, a giant marine reptile of the family of

ichthyosaurs, that lived about 248 million years ago, was found fossilized in the process of giving birth. The mother is frozen with the skeletons of three offspring: one skeleton is just under the mother's tail, another is inside the mother and the third is in

the mother's birth canal with its skull just exiting the pelvis.

Chaohusaurus offspring were born head-first. This birth orientation is typical of humans and other land-based mammals. The offspring of viviparous, or live-birthing, aquatic animals tend to emerge tail-first. This tail-first orientation prevents water-related suffocation of the newborn. Thus, researchers found it odd that this particular chaohusaur gave birth head-first in the water.

Researchers based in the United States, Italy and China are using this new fossil evidence to investigate the origins of viviparity. Biologists have long believed that early marine reptiles, such as the ichthyosaurs, only evolved live-birthing after they adopted an aquatic lifestyle. The discovery of this new fossil is prompting experts to shift their thoughts toward a different theory: Reptiles have inherited viviparity from their land-based ancestors.

Viviparity, the process in which embryos develop inside the mother rather than in external eggs,

SEE FOSSILS, PAGE B8



In this artificially colored photo of the Chaohusaurus fossil, the green body is the mother, the purple body is being born head-first, the yellow body is still inside the mother and the red is the remains of one already born.

BBC.CO.UK

Pollution effects amplified in pregnant women

By ELIZABETH LIU
Staff Writer

Air pollution antagonizes the body. It can lead to asthma and in extreme cases, lung cancer. While we typically associate its detrimental effects with the respiratory system, air

pollution may have even more grave consequences. A recent study, published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, suggests that unclean air may be just as toxic as cigarette smoke for pregnant women.

The study, conducted

by researchers at the University of Florida, focused on several well-known air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and other fine particulate matter. These compounds, which are released from factories, power plants, cars and forest fires, can be suspended in the air for months. To investigate the effects of these long-lived compounds on pregnant women, the University of Florida researchers synthesized the Environmental Protection Agency's estimates on air pollution and local birth data. The combined data revealed that pregnant women have an increased risk of developing preeclampsia, a disorder characterized by high blood pressure if exposed to ambient air. Among the 22,000 individuals examined for the study, 4.7 percent developed hypertension while pregnant. High blood pressure is particularly

dangerous for pregnant women. It significantly increases their risk of seizures, stroke and death.

However, pregnant women are not the only ones affected by air pollution. Other studies have shown that pollution can negatively affect the cognitive and behavioral development of infants while

SEE POLLUTION, PAGE B8



HEALTH.UCSD.EDU

Respiratory effects of pollution may be worse when a woman is pregnant.

Standard sedation practice questioned

By REGINA PALATINA
Staff Writer

It's not very often that a standard medical procedure is called into question. However, due to information recently uncovered by researchers at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Blaustein Pain Treatment Center, this rarity just happened. *Pain Medicine*.

Nerve blocks are injections of anesthetics or steroids into parts of the body to quell the sensation of pain or to pinpoint its origin. They typically target the spinal cord and hip joints. If a nerve block does not decrease pain, physicians often assume that they have misappropriated the pain source. They usually rule out corrective surgery at that point, as it would be unlikely to mitigate patient suffering.

Typically, physicians administer a sedative to a patient before performing a nerve block. Although nerve blocks are admin-

istered to patients while awake in order to monitor sensations of pain, the pre-nerve block sedation is thought to calm the patient and reduce general anxiety. This sedation and nerve block duo has become the standard procedure in many treatment centers. It

is seen as the logical choice for well-meaning physicians looking to make their patients more comfortable.

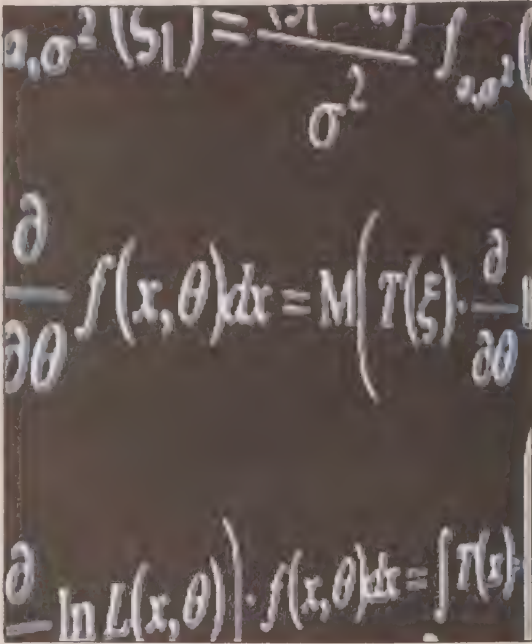
In the study results, published in the journal *Pain Medicine*, lead author Steven P. Cohen, a professor of anesthesiology and

SEE SEDATION, PAGE B8



UCDENVER.EDU

A sedative used in standard procedures could be disadvantageous.



ESTVSU.EDU

There may be an inherent beauty behind mathematical equations.

FMRI shows how we see beauty in mathematics

By MARK STUCZYNSKI
Staff Writer

While the nature of beauty is a topic often left to philosophers poet, it appears that scientists and mathematicians may understand the beauty of complexity. A study conducted by researchers at University College London found a correlation between mathematical formulae and a neurological response to beauty in the minds of mathematicians.

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), neuroscientists watched activation of the orbitofrontal cortex as mathematicians were shown a variety of formulae. The orbitofrontal cortex, a region in the brain's frontal lobe, is involved in the process of decision

making. Activation in this region is thought to represent emotion, particularly an appreciation for beauty in this study.

During imaging, the mathematicians were shown, among other formulae, Euler's identity, the Pythagorean theorem, Taylor polynomials and Riemann equations. These formulae gave positive orbitofrontal cortex readings. Thus, in addition to being stimulated by attractive people and aesthetically pleasing artwork, our appreciation for beauty can be triggered by information. Such a response, according to the study, is contingent on the observer's own personal knowledge.

For the mathematicians in this study, Euler's

SEE FMRI, PAGE B8



APBIOSTUDIO.STANFORD.EDU

Scientists found that odorants in earwax could contain unique information about someone's identity.

Individuals identified from earwax

By SUNNY CAI
Staff Writer

Earwax. We get rid of it, like many of the wastes manufactured by our bodies, without a second thought. However, what seems to be simply a smelly secretion actually contains important identifying information about the individual from which it was produced.

"Scientists from the Monell Center have used analytical chemistry to identify the presence of odor-producing chemical compounds in human earwax," the press release from the Monell Chemical Senses Center said. "The findings suggest that human earwax, an easily obtained bodily secretion, could be an overlooked source of personal information."

Cerumen, the scien-

tific name for earwax, is a hodgepodge of secretions from a variety of sweat and sebaceous glands. It manifests as either wet and yellow or dry and white.

Earwax could potentially function as a powerful diagnostic tool.

Researchers at the Monell Center have undertaken investigations on other frequently disregarded bodily by-products prior to their experiment on earwax. "Our previous research has shown that underarm odors can convey a great deal of

information about an individual, including personal identity, gender, sexual orientation, and health status," George Preti, an organic chemist at Monell and the senior author of the study, said in the press release. "We think it is possible that earwax may contain similar information."

The results of the earwax study indicate that the amounts of odor-producing chemical compounds in human cerumen differ between Caucasian individuals and individuals of East Asian origin. "Individuals of East Asian descent have a form of the ABCC11 gene that codes for dry-type earwax and also for a reduction in axillary body odor relative to individuals of other ethnicities, who typically produce a wet-type ear wax,"

SEE EARWAX, PAGE B8

Earwax is unique between individuals



ARTSANDSCIENCES.SC.EDU

Like genes, earwax could provide unique information about an individual, such as dietary activity and ethnicity.

EARWAX, FROM B7
the press release said.

"In essence, we could obtain information about a person's ethnicity simply by looking in his ears. While the types of odorants were similar, the amounts were very different," Katharine Prokop-Prigge, a Monell chemist and lead author of the study, said in the press release.

In the study, researchers swabbed earwax from 16 healthy males. Half

of the men were of East Asian descent, and the other half were of Caucasian descent. The earwax samples were mildly heated in order to release odoriferous volatile organic compounds (VOCs). After initial collection and preparation, the earwax samples were subjected to chemical analysis.

The results of such techniques demonstrate notable differences in the earwax of Caucasian and East Asian individuals.

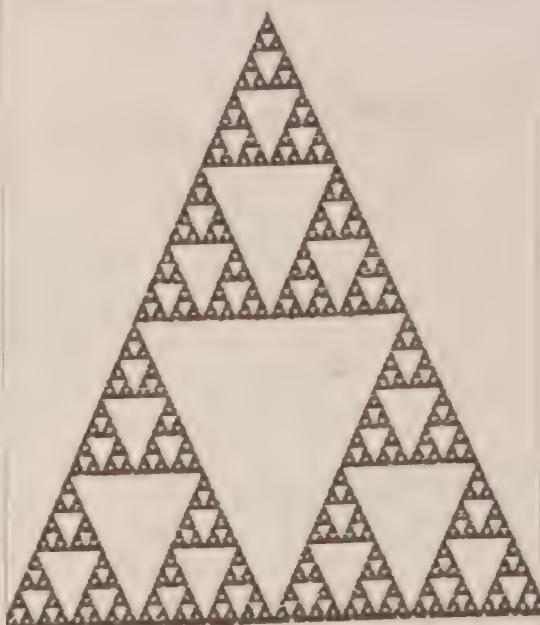
Twelve VOCs were present in the the earwax of all the men, but the total amount varied with the subject's ethnicity: Caucasians have more VOCs than East Asians.

The ability to detect, isolate and analyze VOCs in earwax is attributed to the chemical composition of the substance. The research group hypothesizes that the composition of earwax makes it prone to solvating fatty odorants as picked up from the environment.

Earwax could potentially function as a powerful diagnostic tool for a plethora of diseases. Specifically, chemical analysis of earwax could serve as an effective method for early detection of certain metabolic disorders. "Prokop-Prigge points out that at least two odor-producing metabolic diseases can be identified in earwax before they can be diagnosed using traditional techniques such as blood and urine analysis," the press release said.

Chemical analysis of earwax is not limited to application in hospitals, clinics and laboratories. Earwax can serve as an activity tracker for any individual, almost akin to a food diary or a GPS. "Earwax odors may be able to tell us what a person has eaten and where they have been," Preti said in the press release.

Future studies will explore the possibilities of earwax, a neglected body secretion, as a treasure trove of valuable information situated on the frontier of uncharted scientific territory.



STSCIEDU

Fractals, a mathematical curiosity for many, can be intrinsically beautiful.

Brain scans show the artistic aspect of math

FMRI, FROM B7

method was the most consistently viewed as beautiful. This particular function converts a variety of operations and complex numbers into a clear, concise justification for certain mathematical phenomena.

Interestingly, the researchers of this study think that an intrinsic sense of beauty may inspire mathematicians in the same way pleasing colors or harmonious music can inspire artists and musicians. This result gives a new meaning to the side door of Krieger Hall: "The Artist's Entrance" welcomes professors and students of the

math department on a daily basis.

When interviewed about their responses, the participating mathematicians said they found the formulae pleasing because it combined the intrinsic beauty of numbers and their logical connections with a rigorous understanding of subtle characteristics of the universe.

Thus, despite our understanding of scientists and mathematicians as stolid academics, the UCL study seems to indicate these number-crunchers may have more in common with artists and writers than we originally thought.

Fossils contradict prevailing theories on live birth



COMENTUS.SUSQU.EDU

Fossils of an ancient reptile mother giving birth shows that live birth may have originated on land, not water.

FOSSILS, FROM B7 evolved independently at least 141 times in various vertebrate species of mammals, amphibians, bony fishes and reptiles. This

process is primarily a feature of terrestrial animals. Most fish species, some amphibians and some reptiles are oviparous, meaning they lay eggs af-

ter little or no embryonic development inside the mother. Some animals, such as sea turtles, have to come ashore to lay eggs, but ichthyosaurs could not

walk on land, so viviparity evolved as a more practical solution.

Before this fossil discovery, the birthing habits of chaohusaur were known from previously uncovered skeletons. The excavation in which this most recent fossil was discovered yielded more than 80 new skeletons of the Chaohusaurus genus and closely related members in the ichthyosaur group. The specimen with three offspring is one of only two records of ichthyosaurs giving birth.

The fossil was found while the research team was analyzing a different fish on the same slab. Analysis revealed that the discovered ichthyosaur fossils are about 10 million years older than the previous record of Mesozoic-era marine reptiles. This also leads the researchers to believe that viviparous land reptiles must have appeared much earlier than the current estimates suggest.

Sedative effects may have false-positive results

SEDATION, FROM B7 critical care medicine at the School of Medicine, and his team discovered that sedation doesn't help nerve block procedures. R, it does increase surgery expenses and the risk of surgery-related complications. These disadvantages may be significant, as the Hopkins research shows that some treatment centers sedate every patient before nerve block procedures.

Cohen, with other American medical center researchers, studied over 70 patients to develop the results. These patients, all slated for several nerve block procedures, were divided into two groups. Half of the patients were sedated before the first nerve blocks but not before the second. The other half was treated in the opposite manner: They were only administered sedation before the second nerve block.

Immediately after each procedure, the patients were polled regarding their pain and overall satisfaction, and a month later, the patients were asked to respond to a similar survey. While the sedated patients reported

less pain immediately following the nerve block procedure, the reported pain was not significantly different for sedated and non-sedated patients a month after the procedure.

This study concludes that, if sedation is administered before surgical procedures, patients are more likely to have surgeries performed that do not cure them of their pain. The researchers think that this is because the administration of sedation before nerve block treatment significantly increases false positives.

Such a false positive effect may be due to the administration of the sedation itself, as it reduces pain and relaxes muscles. If this pain relief lasts beyond the sedation/nerve block combination is administered, patients are likely to report that the nerve block worked. Cohen's team is questioning the source of the reported pain reduction: Is it the nerve block or the sedation?

These researchers think that sedation often interferes with the diagnostic properties of nerve blocks. If this is the case, physi-

cians would incorrectly conclude that the site of the nerve block is the cause of the pain and would proceed with unnecessary surgeries. Not only does this leave the patient with an unresolved pain condition; it pointlessly increases medical costs.

Furthermore, sedation procedures involve significant risks. They slow

breathing, lower blood pressure and require close monitoring of vital conditions. Additionally, most patients report feeling drowsy after sedative procedures.

The debate over sedating or not sedating will surely continue as doctors and researchers decide what is ultimately best for the patient.



PATIENTSAFETYVA.GOV

Sedation prior to nerve blocks could point to wrong pain sites in patients.



BIO.SUNYORANGE.EDU

Pollution can have detrimental health effects during fetus development.

Fetus development affected by pollution

POLLUTION, FROM B7

they are still inside the womb. This is not particularly surprising, as scientists have long known that fetal development is extremely sensitive to environmental factors. Recently, however, concrete numbers were applied to this knowledge: Researchers found that the children whose mothers were exposed to a greater amount of PAH, a very common air pollutant, during their pregnancy scored about 2.8 lower on an IQ test than the children of women who were exposed to less PAH. While an IQ difference of 2.8 is small, this could have a detrimental effect on the human race in summation, as nearly everyone is exposed to air pollution on a daily basis. Thus, the total impact of air pollution on

infant behavioral and cognitive development could become a major problem in years to come.

This research heightens the anxiety to make a safer and cleaner world. Although we know that much of this air pollution is created through our own activities, changing our habits will not be easy. Moreover, improving air quality is extraordinarily difficult. Air pollution is found virtually everywhere and it can cling in the atmosphere for a long time. Currently, the impact of air pollution on reproductive health and fetus development do not carry significant influence for environmental legislation. This means pregnant women can only take precautions by limiting their exposure to unclean air.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Surgeons reveal plastic surgery misconceptions

By MARTIN KANG
Staff Writer

Consider the following medical scenario:

An aging man alarmed by the appearance of fissures of flesh on his forehead seeks medical attention. The surgeon performs a rhytidectomy, more commonly known as a face lift. Incisions are made behind the hair line to remove excess facial skin, and then the facial skin on the forehead is pulled up like a drape. The result? A forehead free of wrinkles and the restoration of a youthful-looking face. Classic

plastic surgery, one would say.

Now consider another scenario:

A child sustains a third degree burn on his left hand after being splashed by the boiling contents of a spilling pot of soup. The surgeon operates to remove an entire layer of burnt skin, removes a piece of healthy skin from the child's leg and uses it to cover the burn site. The "skin patch" is held in place with tiny stitches or surgical staples, and the visible scar is minimal.

Skin surgery? Or per-

haps transplant surgery? Not exactly. It's also plastic surgery.

Confused? Here's a third scenario:

A man notices a discrete, solid lump on his right leg, slightly wider than the tip of his finger. Over time, instead of going away, the lump grows bigger and bigger, to the size of a baseball. A tumor. The man then undergoes surgical intervention, which completely removes the tumor, but at the same time leaves a huge, gaping hole in his right leg. This huge hole is not only aesthetically unpleasant but also causes skeletal instability that gives the man a hard time standing.

To solve this problem, the surgeon brings in a flap of tissue along with skin, fat, muscle and even bone to reconstruct the defect. With biocompatible screws and metal plates, the surgeon fixes the bone in place. Then, using microsurgical techniques, the surgeon sews the transplanted nerves, blood vessels, muscle fibers and skin together with the rest of his leg. And yes, this is considered a plastic surgery procedure.

For many, it may be difficult to make the connection between all three scenarios. It is apparent that the first is a plastic surgery — but the rest?

The underlying cause

of this misunderstanding is the incorrect belief that the term "plastic surgery" simply means "cosmetic surgery."

It is important to recognize that cosmetic surgery, which refers to procedures such as breast implants, facial lifts and other operations performed for aesthetic purposes, is merely a subset of plastic surgery.

In fact, cosmetic surgery accounts for "just five percent" of all the plastic surgeries performed, according to Jaime Shores, a plastic surgeon at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

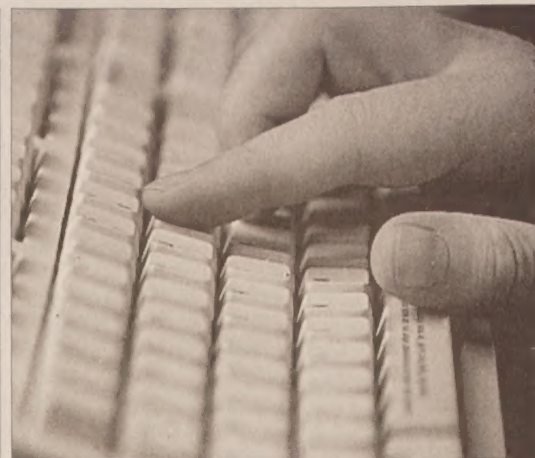
In fact, most plastic surgery procedures performed are considered reconstructive surgery. Oftentimes, after a patient undergoes physically destructive traumatic injuries or surgical procedures, plastic surgeries are performed to restore not only the appearance but also the functionality of impaired body parts.

In one famous case, plastic and orthopedic surgeons trained in hand surgery from Johns Hopkins Hospital transplanted two donated arms onto a war veteran whose arms were amputated during the Iraqi War.

Aided by microscopes and adroit hands skilled in microsurgery, the surgeons connected the bones, linked the nerves, sewed together the blood vessels and finally closed the skin tissues to connect the donated arms to the stump of the patient. This entire surgery was performed within the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Other sub-specialties in plastic surgery include hand and upper extremity surgery, craniofacial surgery (treatment of cleft lips or facial fractures), breast reconstruction, microsurgical reconstruction, pediatric plastic surgery, and the treatment of burns. All of these extend far beyond the scope of cosmetic surgery.

Or to put it simply, "We don't just operate on things that sag," quipped Dr. Shores.



STOCKTON.EDU

Internet trolls tend to possess Dark Triad personality traits like narcissism.

Internet trolls possess Machiavellian-like traits

By SEAN YAMAKAWA
Staff Writer

Internet trolls: unanimously hated by other web users and virtually unblockable by website administrators. These attention-seeking creatures are a growing problem for websites with commenting platforms. They post inflammatory remarks, for the sole intention of infuriating other users. While seasoned web users have learned to simply ignore these trolls, novice users are victimized by their tactics daily. Who are these mysterious creatures? What are they like in real life, unguarded by the mask of online anonymity?

Through online surveys from over 1000 participants, a team of researchers in Canada set out to answer these very questions. The study was designed to highlight correlations between the real-life personalities and the online personalities of Internet users. Survey participants were asked to categorize their online conduct based on five categories: "debating issues that are important to you," "chatting with others," "making new friends," "trolling others" or "other." The answers were then converted into personalities by a test called the Dark Triad.

This scale, developed by psychologists Delroy Paulhus and Kevin Williams, describes an individual's relative degree of narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy. The converted survey results reinforced the general notion that Internet trolls have similar personalities. Trolls, unlike Internet chatters or debaters, consistently described their comments as sadistically motivated.

So there it is. Trolls derive enjoyment from other's suffering. In an attempt to deal with the problem, Youtube recently removed anonymity as an option for video comment writers. This will ensure all comments are linked to the commenter's Google account, thereby allowing anyone to access the commenter's Google Plus profile. Youtube and Google, thinking trolls gain power from anonymity, hope this will deter Internet trolling and bullying as well. *Popular Science*, an online science publication, took this anti-troll activity even further: The site removed the comments section entirely. Eventually, if Internet administrators cannot develop a way to combat trolls, the Machiavellian tendencies of some users may severely restrict Internet freedoms.

Oldest bird alive becomes a new mother

By KELLY CARTY
Science & Technology Editor

Darwin's demon is alive, and her name is Wisdom. This age-defying Laysan albatross, the world's oldest known bird, just gave birth to a new chick. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisdom was seen with her new chick on February 4 at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

This chick is the seventh offspring in seven years for Wisdom. Biologists, who have been tracking this bird since she was first found incubating an egg in 1956, think Wisdom has birthed between 30 and 35 progeny in her lifetime. Although her exact birth year is unknown, scientists believe Wisdom to be 63 years old. Albatrosses do not reach reproductive maturity until five years of age. Thus, Wisdom had to be at least five when she was first banded in 1956. Since then, Wisdom has worn off five tracking bands.

Albatrosses can live up to 50 years in the wild. They spend most of their lives off of land, riding the wind currents over the ocean. The typically albatross wingspan of six feet allows them to ride these currents for hundreds of miles at a time. Predictions based on her 63 year lifespan suggest Wisdom has

literally flown millions of miles.

While at sea, albatrosses drink salt water and feed on oceanic squid or fish. They sometimes follow ships, hoping for edible donations. Samuel Taylor Coleridge poetically documented this ship-following behavior in "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." Unfortunately, the albatross of Coleridge's poem did not fare as well as Wisdom has. It was shot by a crossbow and hung about the shooter's neck.

Although Wisdom's relationship to ancient mariners cannot be determined, biologists know that Wisdom has weathered life-threatening situations. In 2011, a tsunami hit an albatross breeding ground, killing 2000 adults and 110,000 chicks. Wisdom emerged from the natural disaster unscathed.

Wisdom's group of albatrosses returns to the same Pacific island near Hawaii to breed every November. During breeding season, albatrosses will congregate in a large colony.

In the safety of the colony, females scratch a shallow nest and lay a single egg. The female and male of a mating pair, who remain joined for life, will take turns incubating the egg. Once the chick hatches and learns to fly, it will leave land for three to five years

until it reaches sexual maturity.

Albatross chicks are particularly susceptible to plastic trash floating in the ocean. They often mistake it for food and feed it to their chicks.

While the plastic does not kill the birds directly, it irreversibly fills up the stomach, reducing space for food. If such oceanic pollution remains, the average lifespan of these birds could decrease, making Wisdom's story even more of an outlier.

Hopkins works to fight fat with protein discoveries

By TONY WU
Staff Writer

We are all familiar with the concept of the Freshman Fifteen. Thanks to academic stressors and buffet-style cafeterias, the first year of college is nearly synonymous with weight gain. Even at Hopkins, most students put on a few pounds in the first couple of months.

While the Freshman Fifteen rarely signals more than a modest weight gain, many people in the U.S. experience significant weight gains throughout the course of their lives. Adding too much weight can be medically risky, as excess body weight is known to cause a variety of medical complications, including diabetes and fatty liver disease. However, the molecular mechanism behind this correlation has proven to be somewhat elusive. Nevertheless, a team of Hopkins researchers thinks it has found an explanation: in a recently published report, this team presented a molecular switch that may alleviate fat-induced diseases.

The proposed switch regulates the process of cellular fat production in cells. This process, which involves several convoluted pathways, is necessary for cellular operations and maintenance. Fats, despite the prevailing attitude of low-fat dieters, are indispensable to our bodies. However, if cellu-



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A recent Hopkins study unveils the identity of certain proteins that are involved in fat regulation in cells.

lar fat levels are too high, the liver starts undergoing a process called liver scarring in which liver cells are replaced by fat cells. This cellular replacement reduces the liver's ability to process toxins and hormones, setting the body in disarray.

In order to maintain an adequate level of fat in cells, our body produces sterol regulatory element-binding proteins (SREBPs). These proteins, which are found on the membrane of the endoplasmic reticulum in cells, must be transported to the nucleus in order to

effect cellular change. To allow for this movement, the proteins must be cut from the membrane by two proteins called S1P and S2P. The Hopkins research team found a protein called SCAP that is responsible for moving SREBPs towards S1P and S2P, thereby allowing SREBP to be cut from the membrane.

According to the recent paper, SCAP is constantly made within the endoplasmic reticulum but immediately destroyed once it leaves that organelle. Interestingly, SCAP breakdown

is dependent on S1P function. In engineered cells, the Hopkins researchers demonstrated that SCAP is only broken down if S1P is active.

Even though there are no immediate medical applications for this discovery, it is a crucial step in developing our understanding of fat accumulation in cells. Because SCAP interacts with factors known to influence cellular fat regulation, a better understanding of this molecule may help scientists develop treatments for obesity and its related diseases.



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Albatross's are known to live considerably longer than most other birds.

SPORTS

BLUE JAY SPORTS SCOREBOARD			
M. Lacrosse	W. Lacrosse	M. Basketball	W. Basketball
Feb. 22, 2014	Feb. 22, 2014	Feb. 22, 2014	Feb. 22, 2014
vs. Michigan	vs. Bucknell	@ Washington College	@ Washington College
W, 14-5	W, 19-7	W, 64-57	W, 66-58 (OT)
Wrestling	W. Track	M. Track	M. Tennis
Feb. 22, 2014	Feb. 22, 2014	Feb. 22, 2014	Feb. 21 - 23, 2014
@ CC Championships	@ Keogh Invitational	@ Keogh Invitational	@ ITA Championship
3rd Place (52 pts)	High Jump: Janss, 1st 4x200 Relay: 2nd	Pole Vault: Bartnett, 1st 3000m: Robinson, 5th	2nd Place

Marsh has dominant day to end the season

W. TRACK, FROM B12

"My personal goals for this weekend are to PR in the pentathlon as well as in my open events in the long jump, high jump, and triple jump," Marsh said. "For outdoor, I hope to continue to keep improving, earning more points in the heptathlon and medaling in at least one event at conferences. I'm also hoping our team can beat its last indoor point record of 231 points this weekend and continue to earn our top place in the conference."

The field event success didn't end with Marsh either. Freshman Gracie Hargrove had an outstanding performance in the shot put. Her throw of 12.57 meters landed her in second place.

Next up were the track events. The 4 x 200 meter relay team highlighted the day for the Lady Jays. The team finished second behind Widener with a time of 1:50.29.

Another top event for Hopkins was the 800 meter race. Sophomore Hudson Van Slooten finished the race with a time of 2:23.63. Her time landed her in fifth place overall. Freshman Breanna Johnson finished in 14th place with a time of 2:29.76.

All of the team's success didn't come as a surprise, though.

"Our team has been continually improving in multiple events throughout the 2013-2014 indoor season. There have been several PRs and broken school records thus far, and expectations are only rising for the coming championship meets starting with conferences this weekend," Marsh said. "It takes time to get into your peak condition and the past few weeks have clearly shown that our hard work is paying off. We are all mentally in the game and prepared for what we're reaching for and this has helped us to get to where we are now."

Hopkins will be back in action this Saturday and Sunday in Haverford, Pa. again as they kick off March at the Centennial Conference championships. The day will feature the top track and field competitors from across the conference. There is no doubt that the Lady Jays will be working extremely hard this week in preparation. With all of the recent success, there are many athletes with high hopes for themselves and the team to take home the gold medal in the conference.

Bartnett sets new freshmen mark

By RACHEL COOK
Staff Writer

Wrapping up their regular season this past Saturday, the men's track team traveled to Haverford, Pa. to compete in the Keogh Invitational.

With high goals set on the season, the Jays brought a strong performance to set them up nicely as they head into the conference championships.

One of the highlights of the afternoon came from freshman Andrew Bartnett, breaking his freshman record in the pole vault. With a previous record of 4.65 meters, Bartnett won the event

after clearing 4.70 meters.

"I was really happy when I cleared 4.70, however the real goal is to qualify for nationals. To get to nationals I need to jump 4.80 meters, so in my mind, 4.70 meters is just a stepping stone to higher heights that will get me into the post season," Bartnett said. Bartnett took the first place position with the next leading score coming in at 4.26 meters.

Another highlight performance on Saturday came from freshman Mitchell Keller. In the shot put Keller threw his best throw in an inter-conference meet this year at 12.75 meters.

"Mostly what it means to me is that I am going to be able to be helpful in the conference championship. Everyone on the team is so good at what they do and I am just glad that I will be able to maybe score points at conferences and help the team out," Keller said.

Keller has already set the freshman shot put record at Hopkins.

"My biggest goal in the post season is to win a medal in the shot put (first, second or third place gets a medal). We have not had a shot put medalist at the conference championships since Luke Sand who graduated two years ago. Our team goal is to win the Centennial Conference championship, we are all extremely proud of our cross country team for winning their championship in the fall and we would like to follow them up by winning indoor track and hopefully even outdoor track to complete the triple crown. We have all been working extremely hard throughout the season and we know that if we all do our jobs then we can definitely pull off a victory," Keller said.

Bartnett is also looking forward to a possible triple crown.

"All season this track and field team has had 1 goal and that is to take the triple crown, which is winning cross country conferences, indoor conferences, and outdoor conferences. And I believe we are going to do it, because there are so many people on our team who are not only good at their one event, but also excel in 3 or 4 events. And with such a balanced team the points start to add up," Bartnett said.

As the conference championships approach, tensions rise and focus begins to drift, however Coach Bobby Van Allen has complete confidence in his team to stay focused.

"It's a challenge with the way our season is set up, but it's also the nature of our sport where you have to be focused on things like this. In that regard, it makes it a little easier to get the team excited for the upcoming meet, and ready to reap the benefit of the last several months and longer of hard work they've all put in. The men won on the very last event last year, and we have so many great teams in the conference it won't be an easy feat this year either. But we've put in our work and are very balanced, so if we take care of our own business, I think we'll be in great position for the men to win the title," Van Allen said.

The Hopkins men's track team will travel back to Haverford this Saturday and Sunday for the Centennial Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships.

Hopkins wins third straight 141 lb title

By ERICK SUN
Sports Editor

To kick off the team's play-off season, the Jays' wrestling team made their way to Collegeville, Pa. this past weekend for the Centennial Conference championships.

The day was highlighted by the performance of senior Henry Stauber, who breezed to the title at 141 against a



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The Jays placed third in the CC.

stacked field. Stauber began his day by defeating Nathan Twitto of the United States Merchant Marine Academy and followed that victory with a 94 second pin against Matt Spano of Gettysburg College in the semifinals. Against the second seeded Eli Gaylor of Ursinus College, Stauber allowed just a single point in winning the title match 8-1.

In addition to adding to his own accomplishments, Stauber also added to the Jays' legacy in the Centennial Conference. With his win at 141, Stauber became the third Hopkins wrestler in a row to take the title, following in the footsteps of back-to-back title winner senior Paul Marcello.

In the 133, senior Raymond Yagloski turned in a second place finish behind title winner Ryan O'Boyle from McDaniel College. On the mat, senior Raymond Yagloski, a captain, has registered 89 wins, putting him on the cusp of becoming the fourth wrestler in Hopkins history to reach 90 wins.

Fellow senior captain Duncan Crystal, competing in the 149, finished in third place after falling in a difficult semifinal match against second seeded Derek Arnold from Ursinus.

"Derek was a tough matchup because he took good shots and finished efficiently, so it was hard to get my stuff working on the feet," Crystal said.

Perhaps the most exciting match of the day occurred between Hopkins junior Christian Salera and Ursinus' Richard Jasinski in the 152 title bout. It was the second year in a row the two had met in the title match, and once again, Jasinski got the best of Salera by a single point, winning 4-3.

As a team, the Jays finished the tournament in third place behind

Conference Champion Ursinus and runner-up Stevens Institute of Technology. Ursinus had entered the tournament as the top seed with an undefeated 8-0 record in conference while Hopkins had come in just behind the Bears with a 7-1 record.

"As far as our third place finish is concerned, we definitely felt that there was more to be had. A few of us (myself included) did not put together our best work on the mat," Crystal said.

Despite the understanding disappointment in falling short of expectations, Crystal had high hopes for the team moving forward. "The bright side is that Regionals this weekend is the qualifier for NCAAs, so our conference performance is primarily a warm-up and a time to fine-tune some of our technique. Our goal is to get as many guys to the NCAA tournament as possible."

Hopkins will continue their run in the playoffs with NCAA East Regional matchups this coming weekend in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Men's Lax tops future Big 10 foe Michigan

By ZACH ZILBER
Staff Writer

From the opening faceoff against the University of Michigan, it was clear the Jays were not going to be stopped.

The eighth ranked Jays won the faceoff and got to work right away. In only about one minute of action, they had already generated two shots.

The third came off a turnover caused by freshman midfielder Joe Carlini, who sent the ball up the field. After a slick pass from junior attackman Wells Stanwick, junior long stick midfielder Michael Pellegrino scored the first goal of the day.

Three minutes later, Stanwick would score on his own. After a devastating fake left that elicited gasps from the crowd he cut right and fired into the net.

Another three minutes would pass before senior attackman Brandon Benn added a goal of his own, pushing his consecutive scoring streak up to 19 games.

The Jays would tack on three more goals from junior Bronson Kelly, freshman John Crawley, and Benn to give themselves an enormous 6-0 lead after the first quarter of action.

Senior captain Rob Guida said the early scoring barrage set the team up nicely for the rest of the game.

"I think we capitalized early which is something we were struggling with a little bit the past two games. That helped our offense settle down a little bit and start to click," Guida said.

The offense did indeed click, but not before allowing the Michigan's senior midfielder Doug Bryant to score his team's first goal 18 minutes into the game. Sophomore midfielder Holden Cattoni answered with two goals to put Hopkins up 8-1 before Guida put on a show.

After sprinting nearly the length of the field toward the Michigan goal, Guida stopped on a dime, froze his defender, faked to his right and spun left before firing a laser into the top of the net. The Jays would enter the half up 9-1, but they were not finished yet.

A goal from sophomore attackman Ryan Brown began the scoring of the second half. Just two minutes later, freshman midfielder Cody Radziewicz scored the first goal of his career and returned to a supportive Jay sideline where his teammates were pounding his helmet.

Guida's second score of the day gave Hopkins an 11-goal lead, its biggest of the day.

Michigan would then score just its second goal of the day another 16 minutes

after its first. Sophomore midfielder Craig Madarasz answer five seconds later to put the Jays up 13-2.

Meanwhile senior goalie Eric Schneider silently racked up his 13th save of the day. Schneider would finish the game with an astonishing 19 saves, drawing praise from his captain.

"He played [unbelievably]. I think how we played today starts with our goalie and I think Eric played awesome," Guida said.

After allowing one more shot to fly past him in the third, the senior goalie had a point-blank save to start the fourth. He would save two more shots in the next two minutes, garnering applause from the home crowd.

Michigan sophomore midfielder David Joseph pushed the score to 13-4, but Schneider again made a terrific play just two minutes later, diving for his 19th and final save and causing the crowd to erupt with applause and cheers.

The teams would exchange goals, with junior long stick midfielder Nikhon Schuler scoring the final goal for the Jays. Hopkins would win the game 14-5.

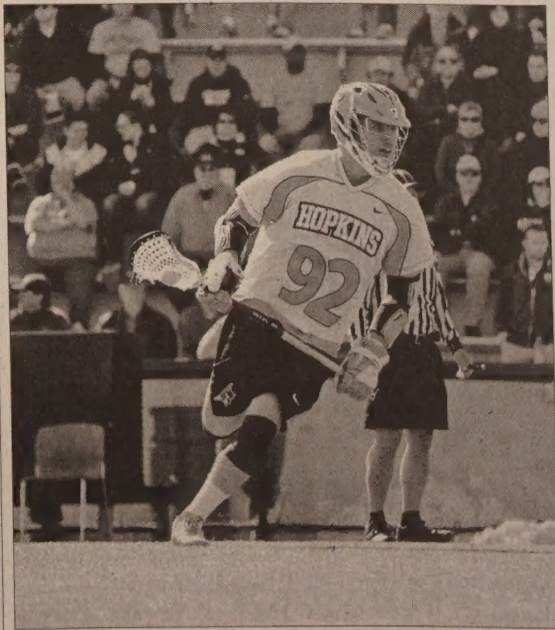
The win, which was Head Coach Dave Pietramala's 150th with the Jays, pushed the team's record to 3-0. This is the fifth straight season Hopkins has won its first three games.

Though his team would play with a lead the entire game, Pietramala said he was disappointed in the game's the fourth quarter.

"You look at today's fourth quarter: 0-4 facing off, 11-4 [Michigan] groundballs, 17-3 [Michigan] shots, and 4-7 on clearance. We didn't understand how to play with a lead and we didn't have the maturity to continue to do the things that got us the lead. So I think we did a great job for three quarters. I think we forced the shots that we wanted, we got a lot of shots, and we got a lot of good shots early. In the fourth quarter we didn't win a faceoff or play defense the whole quarter, and they generated a bunch of shots. I'm really thrilled with three quarters of our lacrosse and really disappointed with the fourth," Pietramala said.

The Jays now turn their attention ninth ranked Princeton University, whom they will visit this Saturday at noon.

"Now it's big boy lacrosse," Pietramala said. "When you look at it and you start to run down the list of games, it's big boy lacrosse now. I'm glad to be 3-0, that's great, but the more important thing is that we've grown a little bit but we've got a lot more maturing to do."



BRETT BRODSKY/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Men's lacrosse improves record to 3-0 for the fifth consecutive season.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
ANDREW BARTNETT - MEN'S TRACK

HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Men's Basketball secures first round bye in the conference championships.

Men's Basketball tops Washington College

By ALEX PICANO
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's basketball team won their last game of the regular season in a close game against Washington College. The Jays improved to 15-10 overall and 12-6 in the Centennial Conference. In Head Coach Bill Nelson's 550th career game, the team secured a first round bye in next week's Centennial Conference Tournament.

At the start of the game, Washington took an early 7-3 lead. However, the Jays responded by scoring 13 points, and they never trailed in the game again. Junior George Bugarinovic earned a double-double, his fifth of the season.

"Our game against Washington College was a good way to close out the regular season. It was their senior day game so we knew they would be amped up, ready to go. They're a 3-point shooting team that can go on hot streaks but we were able to handle all of their runs and come out with a win," Bugarinovic said.

Looking ahead, he was optimistic about the team's next game against Franklin & Marshall College.

"Getting the three seed going into the conference tournament was big, because it will give our bodies additional time to rest and recover since we don't play until Friday as opposed to Wednesday. We play a very good Franklin & Marshall team in the semifinals. We'll have to focus on rebounding and playing good defense to come out with a win, especially considering they outrebounded us in the first two games we played against them," he said.

His teammate, junior Luke Chambers, echoed his sentiments.

"We were thrilled to get a bye and get some of our guys some rest going into the playoffs. Franklin and Marshall is a tough matchup though. Even though we've beaten them twice, it's really hard to beat any team three times in one season. Our preparation leading up to the game won't change much from any other game. We just need to maintain our focus and make sure we execute and compete on game day," Chambers said.

At the end of the half, the Jays closed on a 6-0 run, capped by sophomore Matt Billups's bucket with 18 seconds left on the clock.

"We are the only team this season that has beat-

en Franklin & Marshall both times we met them. So I think this proves that we match up well with them defensively and can get good looks at the basket on the offensive end," Billups said.

Senior Connor McIntyre barely missed a double-double with eight points and eight boards during the game. "As a team have been making great progress at the right time of the year in terms of our team defense and communication, and we're hoping to improve upon our rebounding as we go towards the playoffs," McIntyre said.

The team's success in the first half continued into the second half, as junior Jimmy Hammer opened with a couple of points to bring Hopkins to a 16-point lead.

"Receiving a bye was absolutely huge because going into the game on Saturday, it wasn't clear if we would get a bye or not, even if we won. But, we did our part in winning the game and received some help from [Gettysburg College] as they beat McDaniel and we were able to get the three seed. We were pretty pumped after we heard the news," Hammer said.

"As far as the postseason is concerned, we have already started preparing for Franklin & Marshall because we know how difficult it is to beat a team three times in a row, especially a team of that caliber. We have to be very prepared going into the game and I definitely think we will be ready. I, along with the entire team, want to make the NCAA tournament. It is within our grasp and I think we have a very good chance of accomplishing that goal."

"We've played really well down the stretch as a team and were able to finish the regular season strong with two big wins. We're looking forward to playing F&M in the semis of the conference tournament, but we've got a lot of preparation before our game Friday. We've been watching a lot of game film and practicing hard to put us in a position to win the conference tournament. Everyone has the exact same mindset on this team, and the only goal we have is to make the NCAA tournament and bring back a Centennial Conference Championship to Hopkins, senior Daniel Corbett said.

The Jays will be playing Franklin & Marshall in the semifinal round of the conference tournament Friday night. We wish the team luck as they try to come out of the conference tournament with a championship.

By JASON PLUSH
Sports Editor

After another stellar all-around performance, the Hopkins men's track team looks prepared heading into the Centennial Conference playoffs this weekend. Last weekend, the Jays traveled to Haverford, Pa. to take on several rival schools in the Keogh Invitational, the last meet to train and qualify for conferences. While the day was filled with several memorable

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Andrew Barnett
Year: Freshman
Position: Pole Vault
Major: Mech. Engineering
Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.
High School: John Burroughs School

moments of play, the record-shattering performance from freshman Andrew Barnett stood out. Barnett was spectacular as he broke his previous pole vault record of 4.65 meters with a jump of 4.70 meters to not only finish first overall in the event, but also to top the previous Hopkins freshman record. As a result of his achievement, Barnett was named the Centennial Conference Field Athlete of the Week. Barnett was the third Jay to receive this honor during the season. For his recent success and his record-breaking performance at the Keogh Invitational, Barnett was awarded the honor of Athlete of the Week by *The News-Letter*. We were able to catch up with the freshman star and ask him a few questions about the Conference playoffs, his personal goals, and the goals of the team moving forward.

The News-Letter: What training program do you follow to prepare for the pole vault event?

Andrew Barnett: Preparing for pole vault involves a lot of sprint training and a lot of strength training, but the main way

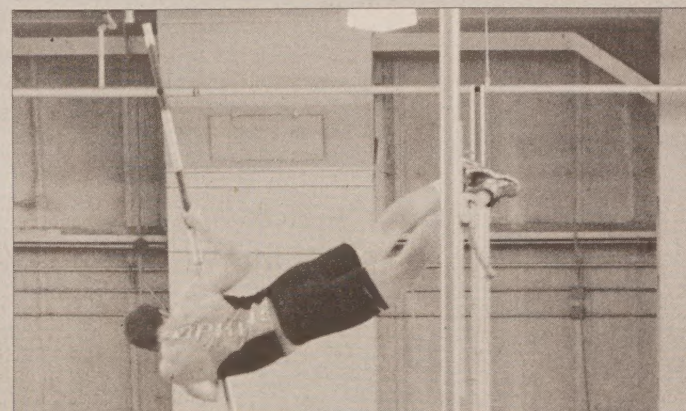
to get better at the vault is to vault. It is such a technique-intensive sport that a lot of time and effort has to be put into getting all of your body angles right so that you get thrown as high as possible.

N-L: Having broken the

freshman pole vault record twice in one season, what is the next thing you want to achieve this season?

AB: My goal for this season is twofold. First, it is to break the overall school record of 16 feet. The second, building off of the first, would be to accomplish qualifying for the national meet in Nebraska later this season.

N-L: You were recently



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Barnett broke his own freshmen record in the pole vault with a jump of 4.70 meters.

honored as Centennial Conference Field Athlete of the Week. What does this accomplishment mean to you?

AB: I was really excited to be named Athlete of the Week, but I have to keep reminding myself that the real goal has not yet

been reached, and while this honor is really cool I still have a lot of work to do before I get to where I want to be.

N-L: What is your greatest source of motivation for performing well at every single meet?

AB: My biggest source of motivation at meets is the awesome feeling that I get when I clear a high height. Pole vault can be a very frustrating sport. You can shoot for a height in meet after meet and still be defeated, but when you finally clear that height that you have been working for, you get that feeling so strongly. You immediately want to feel it again and again and again.

N-L: The team has had a very successful start to the season. What do you believe will be the key factors in continuing this success heading into the conference playoffs?

AB: We have so many

and showing off all that work by setting new personal records in competition. However with every sport, your body starts to deteriorate towards the end of the season so staying injury-free is also a big factor.

N-L: What are your personal goals heading into conferences? What are the overall team goals?

AB: My personal goal at conferences is to jump 15 feet, 9 inches, which will most likely qualify me for nationals where I can jump my goal of 16 feet. Our team goal is to win conferences so that we can be one step closer towards achieving the Triple Crown: winning conferences in cross country, indoors track, and outdoor track.

Barnett will look to pursue all of his goals this weekend when the mighty Jays travel back to Haverford College to compete in the Centennial Conference

championships. The playoffs are set to start on March 1st in the afternoon. The Jays will look to be repeat champions in the conference after capturing the conference title last season by defeating Haver-

ford by a small margin of five points.

With all of their focus directed towards conferences, we wish the Jays the best of luck this upcoming weekend in the hope that they can bring home another conference championship.

Women's Lacrosse jumps out to 3-0 start

By STEVE HYLAND
Staff Writer

The Hopkins women's lacrosse team has been tough to stop in February. Through the first two games of the month, the Jays have averaged a whopping 16.5 goals per game en route to a 2-0 record. This past Saturday, the Jays returned to Homewood Field after defeating Mount Saint Mary's University 17-2 in Emmitsburg, Md. last Wednesday to play a winless Bucknell team in the hopes of starting the young season with an impressive 3-0 record. This game started a critical four-game home stand for a Hopkins team that hopes to make it back to the NCAA Division I Tournament for the first time since 2007.

The Jays dominated the Bucknell Bison by a score of 19-7 to start their home stand off on the right foot. A trio of Jays led the offensive explosion, which saw senior Taylor D'Amore and sophomores Dene DiMartino and Jenna Reifler score four goals apiece. The Jays used multiple scoring runs to pull away from the Bison in a game where the Jays led for nearly 54 minutes.

Early in the game, Bucknell took a 1-0 lead when senior Katelyn Miller scored from the eight-meter mark just 3:34 into the game. This early success from the Bison did not continue, however, as the Jays went on a 12-0 scoring run which spanned nearly 24 min-

utes in the first half.

Igniting the run was DiMartino, who pumped in back-to-back goals 65 seconds apart (24:57, 23:52). D'Amore next added consecutive goals a mere 30 seconds apart (22:54, 21:54) to run the Jays' lead up to 4-1. Almost seven minutes later, junior Jen Cook was able to quick-stick a pass from

of back-to-back free position goals. DiMartino scored her third with 11:45 left and D'Amore struck for her third time just 1:25 later to push the lead to 9-1. This goal was D'Amore's 100th career goal at Hopkins. With that goal, she becomes the eighth player in the University's Division I history to score 100 goals

She dodged from the top of the fan and picked the upper right corner to increase the Jays' lead to 12-1.

The Bison were able to slip in a late goal to make the score at the half 12-2.

The Jays did not miss a beat offensively to start the second half. They continued to put pressure on the Bison by scoring three goals in the first 10 minutes of the second half. Cermack pumped in her fifth goal of the year off of a D'Amore assist. Matz pushed the Hopkins lead to 14-2 with her second goal of the game. With almost 21 minutes left in the game, Reifler ripped a shot from the five-meter off of a Cermack assist for her third goal of the game.

With a commanding 15-2 lead, the Jays seemed to tone down the offensive pressure and, over the final 20 minutes of the game, were outscored by the Bison 5-4. Bucknell scored three straight goals to cut the Jay lead to 10 with almost 13 minutes left in the game. Hopkins's 16th goal came off the unassisted stick of junior Jen Cook. Cermack scored her second of the game to extend the lead to 17-6. Reifler and freshman Alexis Maffucci scored the final two goals for Hopkins, and the game's final tally was 19-7 in favor of the Jays.

The Jays will be back in action Saturday afternoon. They will be hosting American University on Homewood Field at 1:00 p.m.



BRETT BRODSKY/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Women's lacrosse continued their offensive surge against Bucknell.

D'Amore to push the Hopkins lead to 5-1 midway through the first half.

Reifler, who had her first career four-goal game, scored her first goal off a hard dodge from the right alley with 14:14 left in the first half. Less than two minutes later, she received a dump pass from senior Sammy Cermack and was able to bury it to extend the Jays' lead to 7-1.

D'Amore and DiMartino completed their hat tricks in the first half off

in a career as a Jay.

D'Amore stayed active offensively when she assisted sophomore Erica Matz's goal with just under 10 minutes to go in the half. Scarcely a minute later, DiMartino tied her career-best number of goals in a game with her fourth and final goal on a free position (8:46). With only 29 seconds left, D'Amore put the final stamp on her incredible first half with her fourth goal of the game.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Behind a dominant performance from senior Henry Stauber, Hopkins wrestling has won the Centennial Conference in the 141 weight class for three years running.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY
W. Lacrosse vs. American, 1 p.m.
Track @ CC Championships, All Day

TUESDAY
M. Lacrosse @ Mt. St. Mary's, 4 p.m.

D'Amore nets 100th career goal as a Blue Jay



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Junior Taylor D'Amore scored four goals and recorded four assists this past Saturday as the Hopkins women's lacrosse team defeated the Bucknell Bison, 19-7 to remain undefeated on the season. The offensive production has continued for the Lady Jays as D'Amore and company have notched more than 10 goals in each of their first three games. Please see Page B11 for full coverage.

Lady Jays close out Wash. College in OT

By GAURAV VERMA
Staff Writer

On Feb. 22, the Hopkins Lady Jays travelled to Chestertown, Md. for their regular season finale against the Washington College Shorewomen. The first half of the basketball game did not go as planned for Hopkins, as the team was behind 27-25 at the half, never once holding the lead. Still, Hopkins fought back in the second half, quickly taking the lead on back-to-back shots by sophomore guards Katie Clark and Liz Tommasi, putting Hopkins up 30-27 with 18:39 left in the game. The lead, however, was short lived as the Shorewomen quickly regained the lead 31-30.

The game followed a back-and-forth pattern throughout the second half, until the Lady Jays took the lead at the 7:26 mark on a layup from junior forward Maggie Fruehan. Hopkins would hold onto the lead until Washington College tied the game at 52 with 2:09 left to play. In the final two minutes, both teams went cold, as neither squad was able to score a point. With one second left, Fruehan was fouled, but was unable to drain the free throws, sending the game into overtime for the first time this season.

In overtime, Hopkins dominated with 5-6 shooting from the field and 3-4 from the line. The Lady Jays outscored the Shorewomen 14-6 in OT, resulting in a 66-58 win to conclude the regular season. Notable performances included Clark, who scored 20 points in the game, and Tommasi who added 15. Junior center Ciara McCullagh led the team with seven rebounds, while also scoring 12 points in the victory. With the win, Hopkins finishes the season with a 14-4 in-conference record, good for third seed in the

tournament.

"We knew that Washington College wouldn't be making the playoffs, so they would be trying to make a statement this game. We wanted to make sure that we were the ones making the statement, not them." Moving into OT, Clark said that she thought "that the OT period was so successful for us because we all remained mentally focused. The successful overtime can be attributed to the fact that going into OT

"We wanted to make sure that we were the ones making the statement, not them."
- KATIE CLARK

we were the ones with the momentum. Also, being the first to score in the overtime lead to our success, and our great effort and hustle on the opposite end of the court. Going into OT our approach was that it was our game, and every loose ball and rebound was ours," Tommasi said.

Tommasi and Clark agreed that the greatest in-season improvement was mental, as they both believed the team showed fight and responded well to adversity.

"[We need] to really amp up our communication, especially since the gyms will be more crowded and louder [in order to be successful]," Tommasi said. "Another big component to our success in the post-season will be our ability to start strong, stay strong, and finish strong," noting that "starting strong has been a struggle for us, but is something that we must do in order to be successful in the post season."

The Lady Jays will next play McDaniel College in the semifinals of the Centennial Conference championships, with the winner advancing to the finals for the chance to earn a berth in the NCAA Division I tournament in March. The team has been working hard this week to ensure that they continue to find success in the post-season.

INSIDE

Men's Basketball: Earn CC Playoff Berth

The Hopkins men's basketball team defeated the Shoremen of Washington College, 64-57 to earn a spot in the Centennial Conference playoffs. **Page B11**

Athlete of the Week: Andrew Barnett

At the Keogh Invitational, freshman Andrew Barnett, a pole vaulter, set a Hopkins record with his 4.70 meter jump to be named our Athlete of the Week. **Page B11**

Men's Lacrosse: Jays Crush Michigan

Seniors Rob Guida and Brandon Benn scored four goals this past Saturday as the Jays remained undefeated, cruising to an easy 14-5 victory over the University of Michigan. **Page B10**

INSIDE

Men's Tennis finishes 2nd at ITA

By MITCH WEAVER
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's tennis team was busy at work this past weekend, taking on several formidable opponents. During their numerous matches, the Jays were able to accomplish a feat that many take for granted: making our school proud. The 10th ranked Jays traveled to the ITA National Team Indoor Championship in Cleveland, Ohio and came away with a result that was not only rewarding, but one that left them hungry and prepared to take their games to the next level.

To start off the weekend, Hopkins squared off against a strong Emory University squad, who came into the tournament ranked sixth overall. With an impressive display of tennis in both singles and doubles play, Hopkins was able to shake off any rust and pounce on the Eagles right from the get go. To start, Hopkins jumped out to a 3-0 team lead after winning all three doubles matches. At first doubles, freshmen Michael Buxbaum and Emerson Walsh defeated the reigning national doubles champion Ian Wagner 8-6, while juniors Erik Lim and Tanner Brown handily won at second doubles, 8-2. At third doubles, sophomore Nicholas Garcia and junior Noah Joachim won 8-6 to seal the deal and give Hopkins a 3-0 lead.

After dominating in doubles play, it was then up to the singles group to maintain the momentum and grab more victories for the Jays. Brown got things going with a quick win in straight sets to bring the lead to 4-0. After surrendering the next two points in very close matches, freshman Jeremy Dubin got Hopkins back to its winning ways, winning 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in a three-set battle. Junior Sam Weissler sealed the victory for the Jays, as he con-

trolled the pace in the match at sixth singles to bring the score to 6-3 overall, sealing an upset victory for the Jays over the Eagles.

The next opponent for the Blue Jays was 13th ranked Case Western Reserve University. This match proved to be quite different from the previous matchup versus Emory, as Hopkins had to rely heavily on the singles matches. Case Western jumped to an early lead after capturing the doubles



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Men's tennis loses in title match.

matches 2-1. Garcia and Joachim were able to seal another victory, but the Jays couldn't solve the top two duos for Case Western. Heading into the singles matches, the Jays knew that a trip to the championship round of the tournament was at stake. Using this mentality as fuel for motivation, Hopkins went on to win five of six singles matches to finish the match 6-3 solidifying another "W" in the win column. Winning singles matches for the Jays were Weissler, Dubin, Lim, Buxbaum, and junior Ben Hwang.

After taking down two solid opponents, the Jays were prepared, motivated, and determined to play in the ITA championship match. The squad was set to face off against the Bears from Washington University in St. Louis. Hopkins was able to get off to a fast start and gain an early advan-

tage, winning two of three matches in the doubles bracket.

Brown and Lim came together for a critical win while Garcia and Joachim continued to cruise past their opponents for their third victory of the weekend in doubles. Brown and Lim had one of the more exciting matches of the day, as they fell behind 5-2 before rallying for an impressive come-from-behind victory.

Unfortunately for Hopkins, the singles matches proved to be an overwhelming test as they were unable to build off of the rhythm in the match against Case Western a day before. The Jays dropped five of six matches against the Bears and lost in the championship match by a final score of 6-3. Buxbaum was the lone winner in singles, as he won a spirited matchup against Ross Putterman from Wash U, winning in straight sets 7-5 and 6-1.

Despite the tough loss in the championship, the Jays put together a great weekend of success.

"The weekend was an overall success. Although we did not take the title, we did accomplish many of our goals. We defeated Emory for the first time in school history and this was the first time we reached the finals in the ITA national indoors in the schools history. The future looks bright. We added some tremendous new freshmen into the lineup and they performed well under pressure. We look to improve our games and prepare for the national championship in May," Lim said.

The men return to the courts again on March 2 where they will take on Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va. The match is set to start at 11:00 a.m. as the 10th ranked Jays meet the 22nd ranked Generals for the first time this season.

W. Track concludes season on high note

By ZACHERY OLAH
Sports Editor

The end of the regular season proved to be a strong one for the Hopkins women's track and field team. Coming off of a very strong performance at the United States Naval Academy last weekend, the Lady Jays found themselves in Haverford, Pa. to conclude their indoor regular season at the Keogh Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

Success followed the team throughout the entire day, as Hopkins saw solid performances in both the track and field events.

One of the strongest events for the team was the high jump. Hopkins took two of the top three spots with freshman Laura Janss and sophomore Paige Marsh finishing first and third, respectively. Janss jumped an astounding 1.52 meters while Marsh cleared 1.47 meters.

This was just the start of Marsh's success. She broke her season records for the long jump and the triple jump. She long jumped 4.97 meters, improving her previous mark by over .2 meters. While placing fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 10.23 meters, she topped her previous best score of 10.13 meters.

With the conferences championships and the outdoor season approaching fast, Marsh hopes her recent success is only the start for her.



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Sophomores Katie Clark and Liz Tommasi led the way for the Blue Jays.